

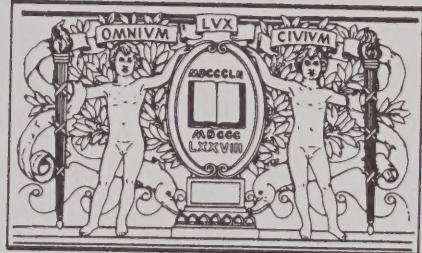
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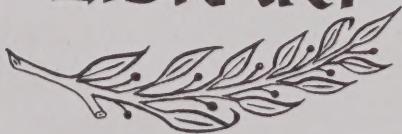
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# The Health of Dorchester

Heslin Brisker-Bergman

Census of Death

*presented at the*

Boston Public Health Commission's  
5th Annual Community Health Series



Thomas M. Menino  
*Mayor of Boston*

John Auerbach  
*Executive Director*

02/02-1400

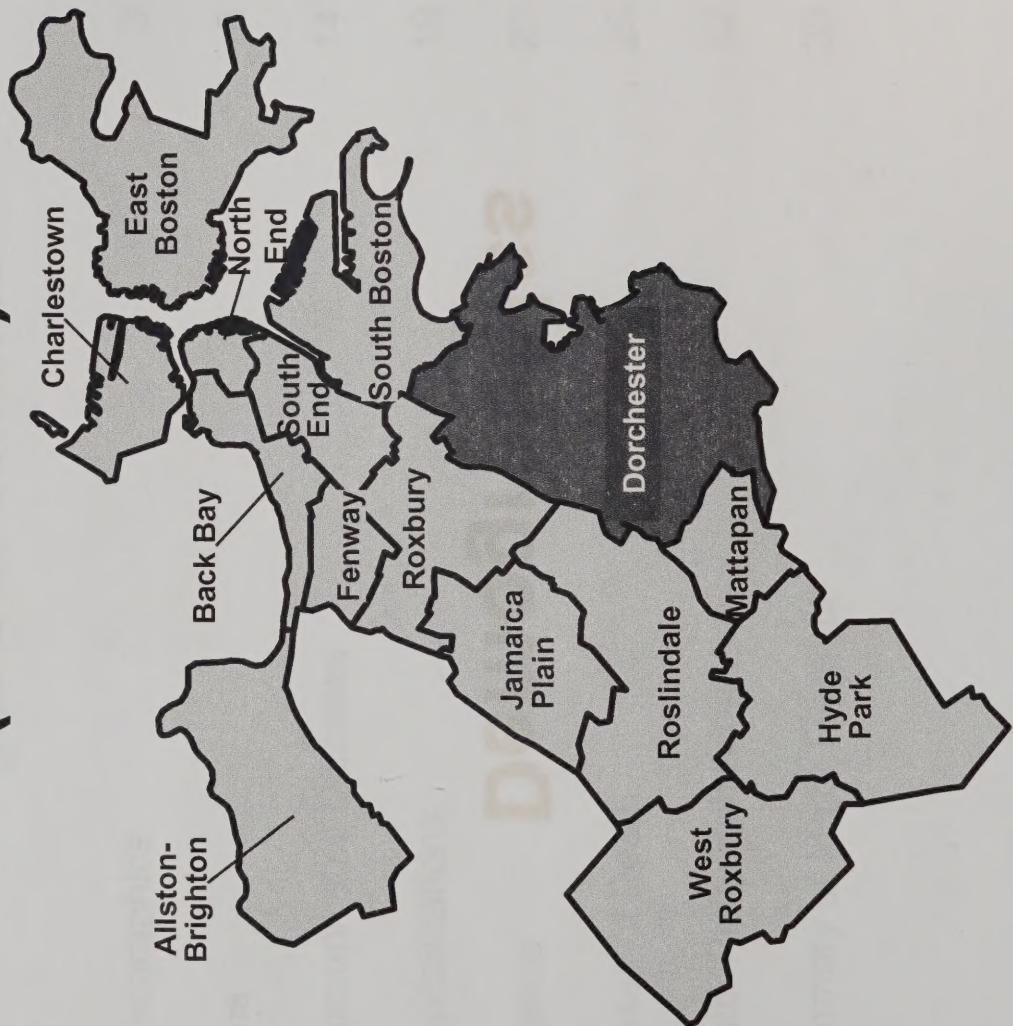
02/15

## Table of Contents

Demographics	3
Births	8
Communicable Diseases	14
Hospitalizations	19
Violence	23
Causes of Death	25
Health Risks/Behaviors	32
Summary of Major Findings	39

# Demographics

# Dorchester Community Meeting 2002 (Revised\*)



\*Dorchester communities included in the September 9, 2002 presentation have been geographically redefined to avoid overlapping boundaries and to contain all of the Dorchester population.

MAP PREPARATION: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

## Dorchester Communities

The following six areas contain all Dorchester census tracts (previously defined as North and South Dorchester). Each area is distinct (census tracts appear in only one area). The boundary definitions start on the west side of the area and proceed north, east and south, and then return to the starting street.

The six communities described below by census tracts and street boundaries are defined for statistical purposes only and should not be confused with neighborhood boundaries defined by the Boston Public Health Commission, the City of Boston, or by neighborhoods themselves.

### Codman Square/Southern Franklin Field Area

Census Tracts: 919, 923, 1001-1005

Boundaries: Blue Hill Avenue, Talbot Street, RR, Geneva Avenue, Bowdoin Street, Washington Street, Centre Street, Dorchester Avenue, Gallivan Blvd, Morton Street, Blue Hill Avenue

Although Grove Hall extends into Roxbury, the Roxbury section has not been included in the geographical definition used in this presentation.

### Dorchester Grove Hall Area

Census Tracts: 901-906, 924

Boundaries: Blue Hill Avenue, West Cottage Street, Dudley Street, Magnolia Street, Robin Hood Street, Hartford Street, Wayland Street, Magnolia Street, Quincy Street, Columbia Road, Railroad Tracts, Talbot Avenue, Blue Hill Avenue, Harvard Street, Austin Street, American Legion Hwy, Blue Hill Avenue

### Fields Corner

Census Tracts: 916-918, 920-922

Boundaries: Columbia Road, Quincy Street, Bowdoin Street, Church Street, Freeport Avenue, Morrissey Blvd, Ocean, Victory Road, Morrissey Blvd, Neponset Avenue, King Street, Dorchester Avenue, Centre Street, Washington Street, Westville Street, Bowdoin, Geneva Street, Columbia Road

### **Uphams Corner Area**

Census Tracts: 907-908, 912-915

Boundaries: Hartford Street, Robin Hood Street, Magnolia Street, Dudley Street, E. Cottage Street, RR, Norfolk Avenue, E. Cottage Street, Pleasant Street, High Street, Church Street, Quincy Street, Magnolia Street, Wayland Street, Hartford Street

### **Savin Hill/Harbor Point**

Census Tracts: 909-911

Boundaries: Pleasant Street, E. Cottage Street, Crescent Avenue, around Columbia Point, city boundary to harbor, Morrissey Blvd, Freeport Street, High Street, Pleasant Street

### **Lower Mills/Neponset**

Census Tracts: 1006-1009

Boundaries: Dorchester Avenue, King Street, Neponset Avenue, Pope's Hill, Freeport Street, City Boundary, River Street, Standard Street, Manchester Street, Maryknoll Street, Morton Street, Gallivan Blvd, Dorchester Avenue

## Population by Race/Ethnicity Dorchester, 1990 and 2000

Race/Ethnicity	Census 1990	Census 2000
<b>Total Population</b>	121,011	128,503
White, non-Hispanic	38%	24%
Black, non-Hispanic	46%	45%
Hispanic	12%	14%
Asian/Pacific Islander (1990)	3%	N/A
Asian (2000)	N/A	8%
Other Race*	<1%	4%
<b>Two or More Races</b>	N/A	5%

\*\*"Other race" includes Native Americans (1990), and Native Hawaiians/Other Pacific Islanders, Alaska Native/American Indians, and Other Races (2000).

DATA SOURCE: Modified Age-Race-Sex file for Boston census tracts, 1990 US Census; US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, American Fact Finder, Census 2000.

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

## Population by Race/Ethnicity Dorchester Communities, 2000

Race/Ethnicity	Boston	Codman Square/ Franklin Field	Fields Corner	Grove Hall*	Lower Mills/ Neponset	Savin Hill/ Harbor Point	Uphams Corner
Total Population	589,141	30,301	26,219	21,562	21,753	11,048	17,620
White, Non-Hispanic	50%	7%	19%	2%	60%	49%	26%
Black, Non-Hispanic	24%	72%	41%	65%	23%	15%	30%
Hispanic	14%	13%	14%	23%	4%	10%	18%
Asian	8%	3%	13%	0.4%	8%	22%	7%
Other Race**	2%	2%	7%	5%	1%	2%	11%
Two or More Races	3%	4%	6%	5%	3%	3%	8%

\* Dorchester section of the Grove Hall area

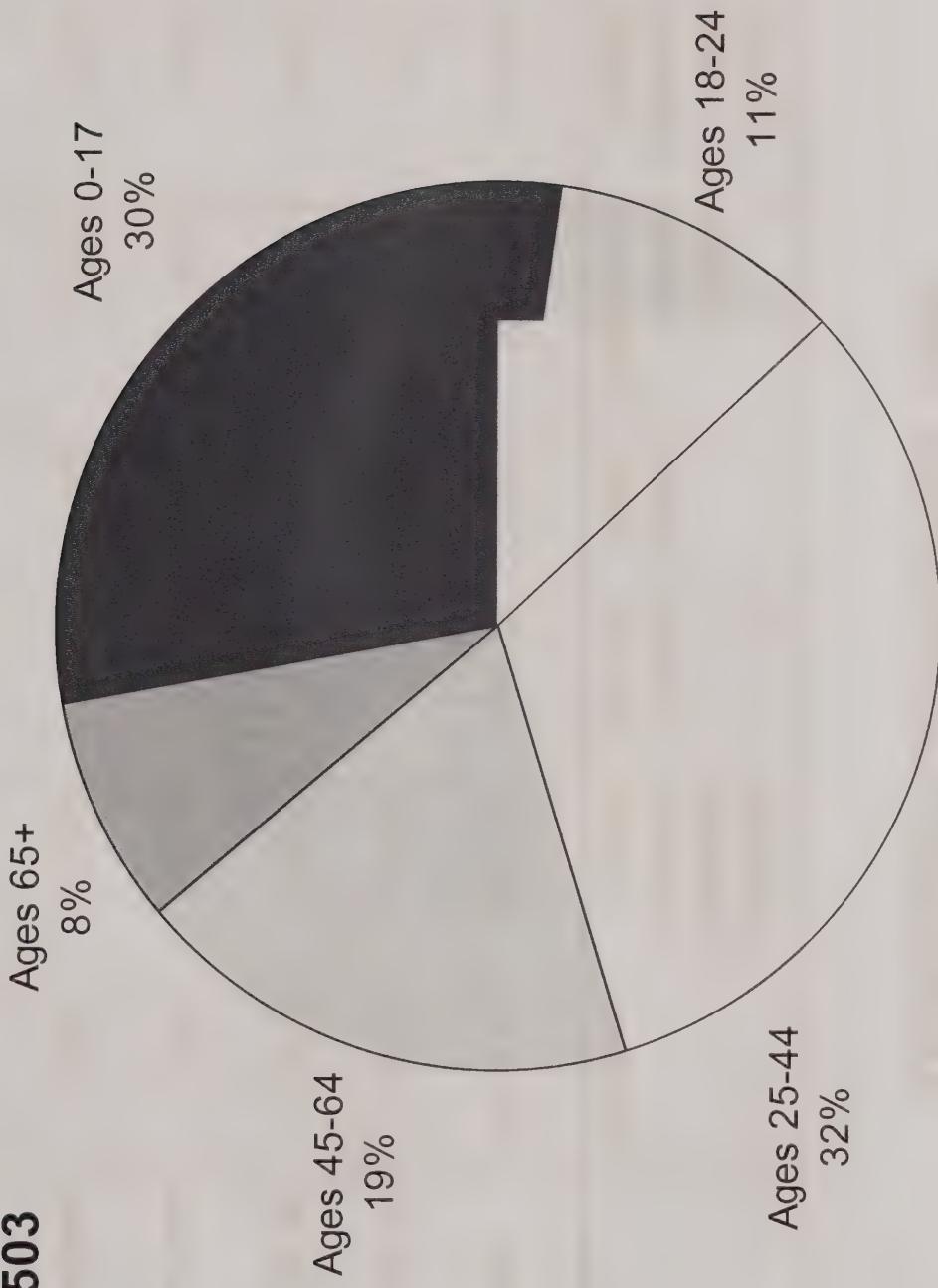
\*\* "Other race" includes Native Hawaiians/Other Pacific Islanders, Alaska Native/American Indians, and Other Races.

DATA SOURCE: Census 2000, US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, American FactFinder

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

## Population by Age Dorchester, 2000

N=128,503



DATA SOURCE: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, American Fact Finder, Census 2000  
DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

# Population by Age Dorchester Communities, 2000

	Boston	Codman Square/ Franklin Field	Fields Corner	Grove Hall*	Lower Mills/ Neponset	Savin Hill/ Harbor Point	Uphams Corner
Total Population	589,141	30,301	26,219	21,562	21,753	11,048	17,620
Ages 0-17	20%	33%	31%	37%	22%	23%	29%
Ages 18-24	16%	10%	11%	10%	9%	15%	11%
Ages 25-44	36%	31%	32%	30%	35%	37%	33%
Ages 45-64	18%	20%	19%	16%	20%	17%	18%
Ages 65+	10%	7%	7%	7%	14%	9%	9%

\*Dorchester section of the Grove Hall area

DATA SOURCE: Census 2000, US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, American FactFinder

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

**Births  
In  
Dorchester**

# Births by Race/Ethnicity by Maternal Ancestry Dorchester, 2000

<b>WHITE</b>	<b>N=359 (16%)</b>	<b>BLACK</b>	<b>N=1,090 (48%)</b>
"American"	61.0%	African American	56.2%
European	31.2%	Haitian	10.8%
Other*	7.8%	"American"	7.7%
		Other West Indian/Caribbean	8.0%
		Jamaican	6.5%
		Cape Verdean	3.2%
		Other African	3.2%
		Nigerian	1.5%
		Barbadian	1.6%
		Other	1.3%
		*Native American, European, Other Mid Eastern, and unspecified.	
<b>HISPANIC</b>	<b>N=395 (17%)</b>	<b>ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER</b>	<b>N=239 (11%)</b>
Puerto Rican	39.0%	Vietnamese	80.3%
Dominican	30.6%	Chinese	9.6%
Other Hispanic	11.9%	Korean	2.9%
Other Central American	10.6%	Asian Indian	2.1%
Salvadoran	2.0%	Cambodian	n<5
Other South American	2.0%	Other Asian/PI*	n<5
Mexican	2.3%	Other**	n<5
Cuban	n<5		
Colombian	n<5		

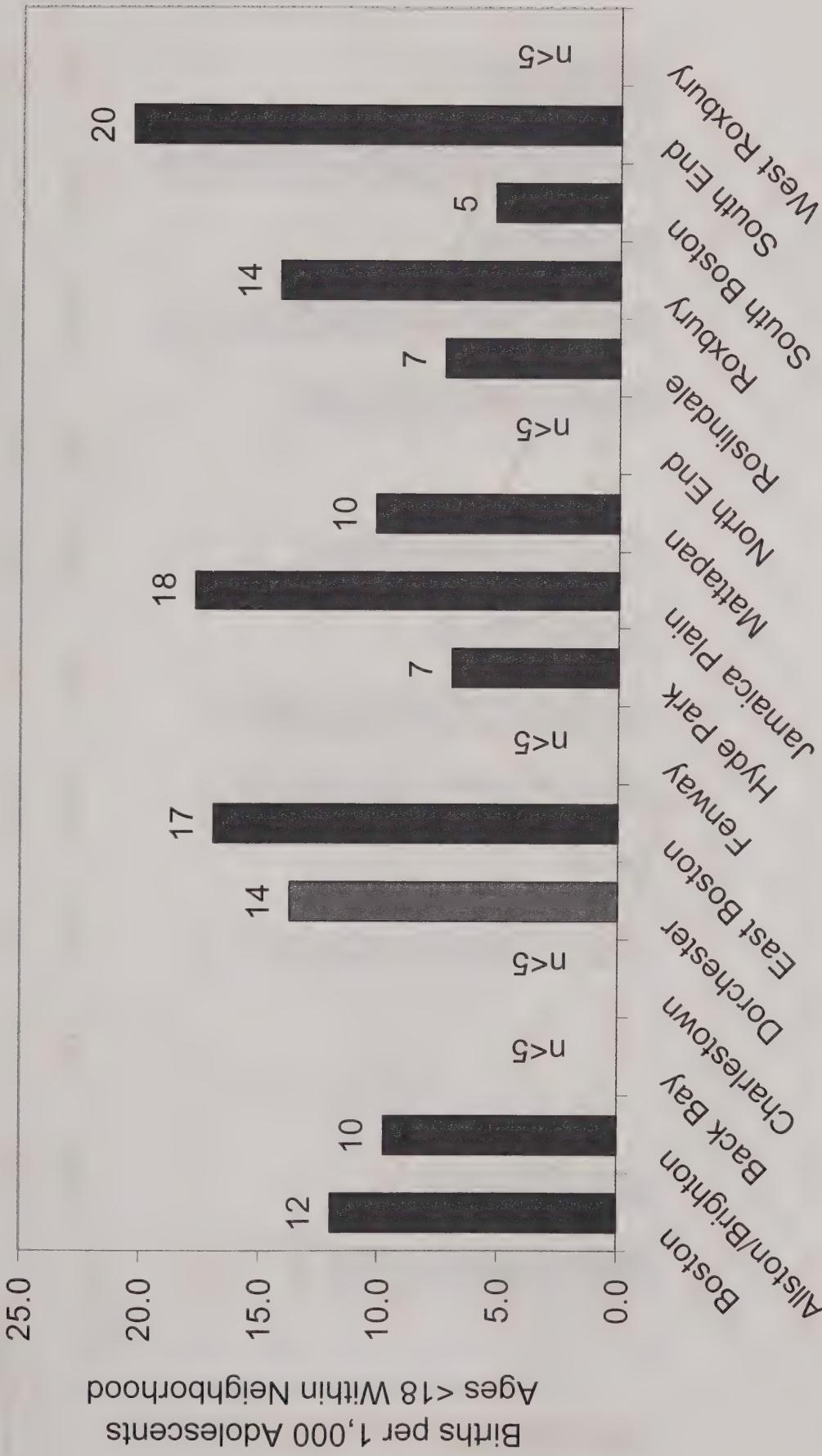
NOTE: Race/ethnicity and maternal ancestry are self reported.

DATA SOURCE: Boston resident live births, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

\* Japanese, Filipino, Unspecified Asian/PI  
\*\* Other West Indian/Caribbean, Nigerian, "American," other unspecified

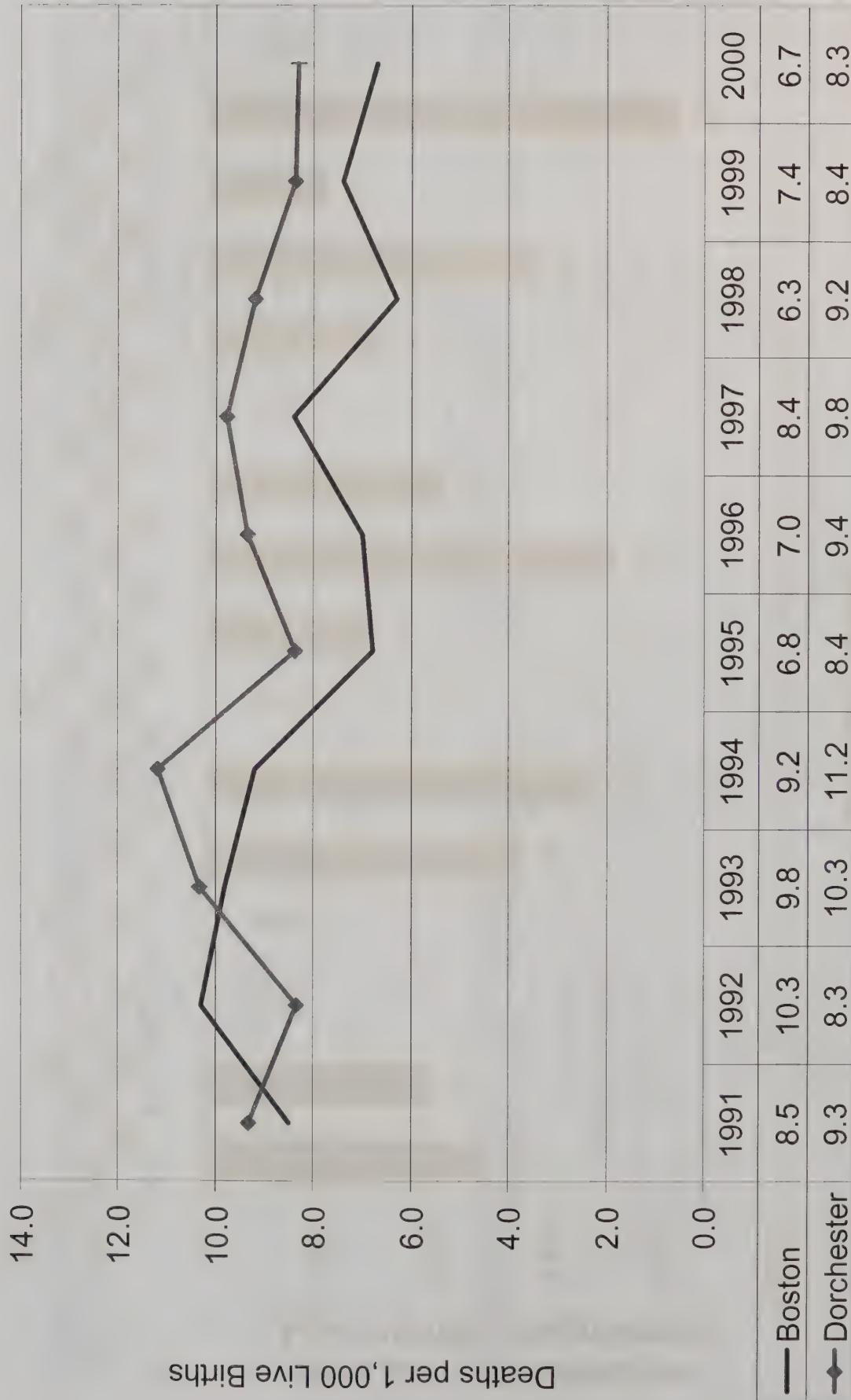
# Birth Rates Among Adolescents by Neighborhood Boston, 2000



DATA SOURCE: Boston resident live births, Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Rates are calculated using the US Census 2000 for resident population.

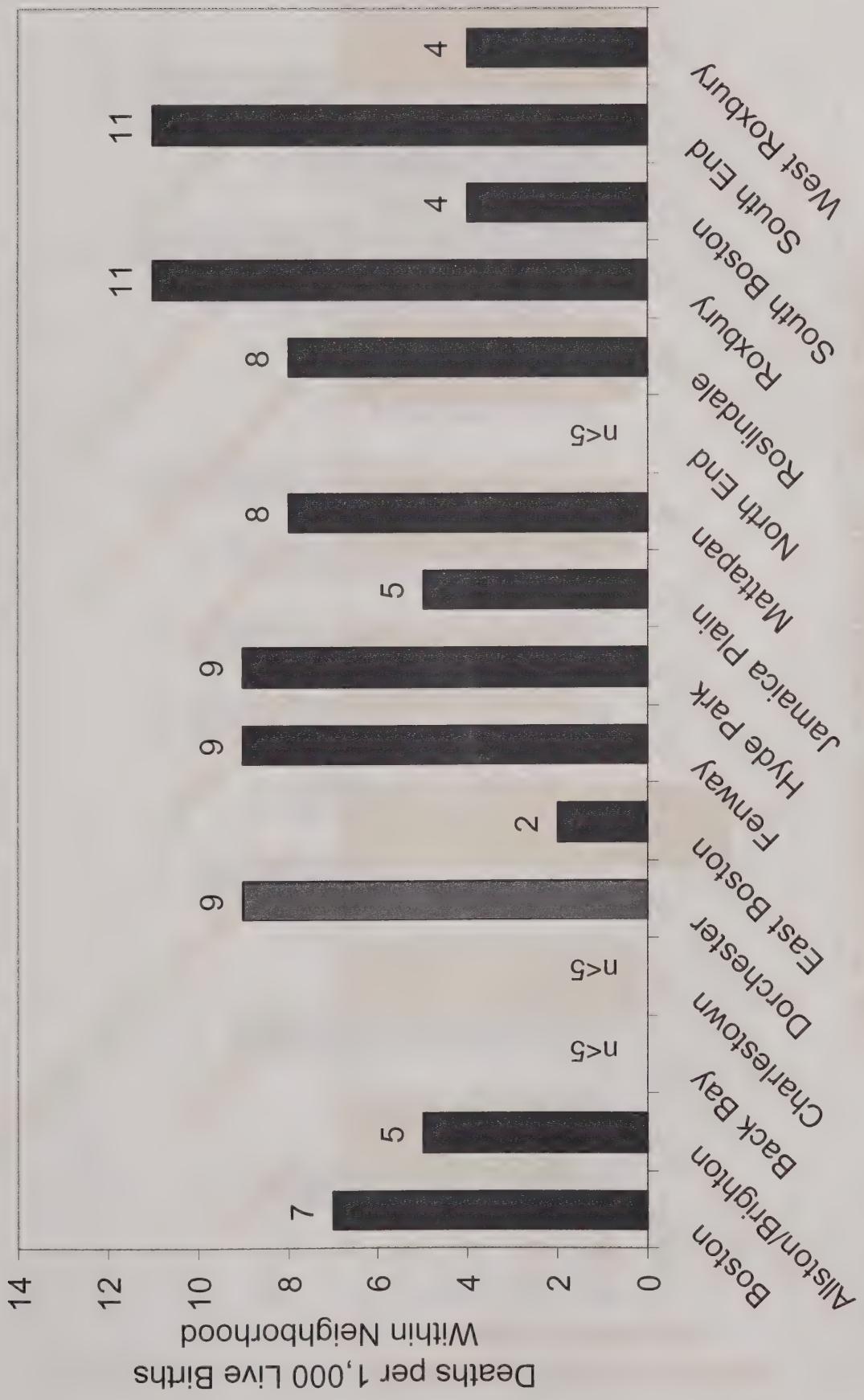
DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

## Infant Mortality Rate Boston and Dorchester, 1991-2000



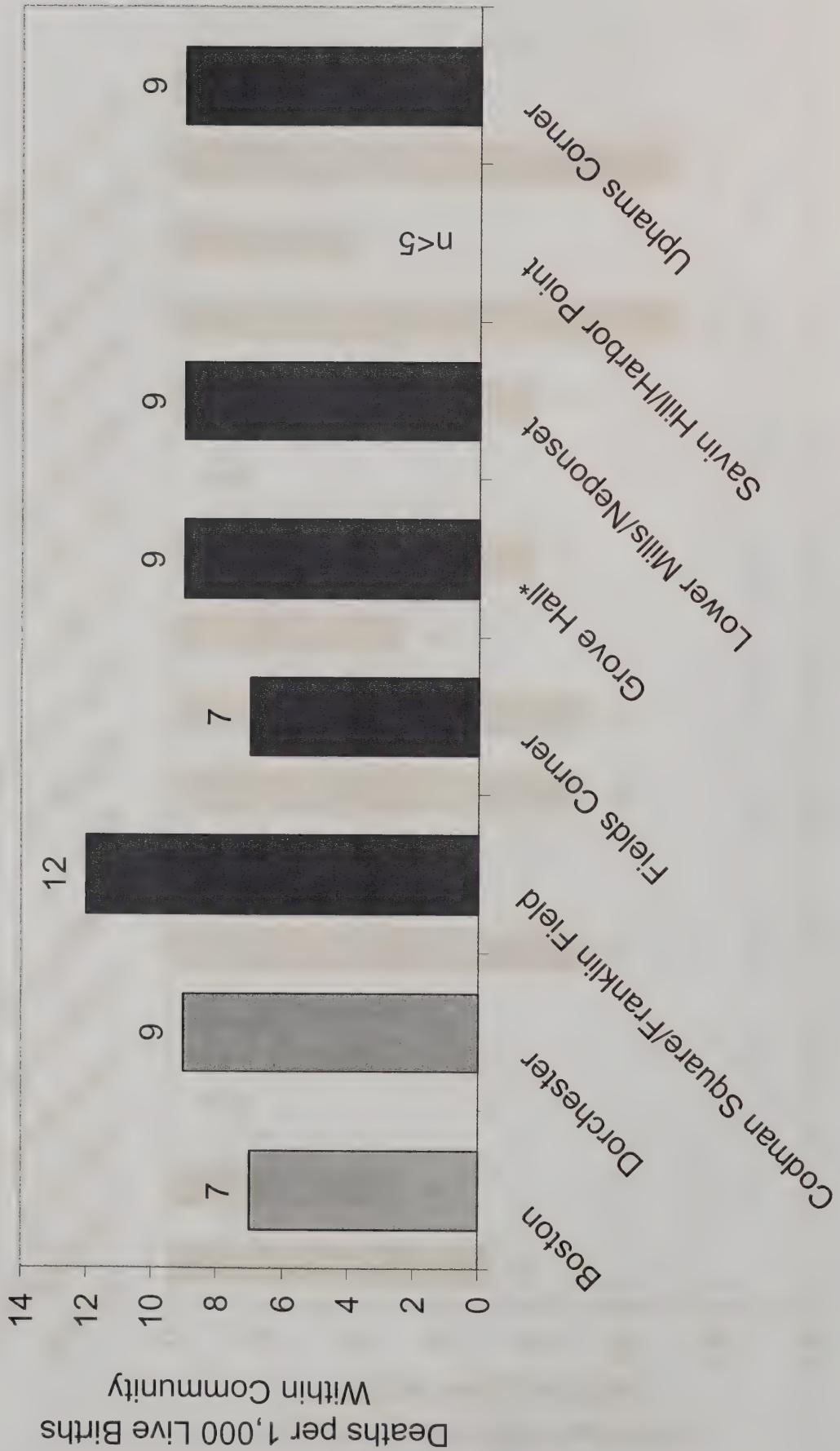
DATA SOURCE: Boston resident deaths and live births, Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

# Infant Mortality Rate by Neighborhood Boston, 1996-2000



DATA SOURCE: Boston resident deaths and live births, Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

# Infant Mortality Rate By Dorchester Community, 1998-2000

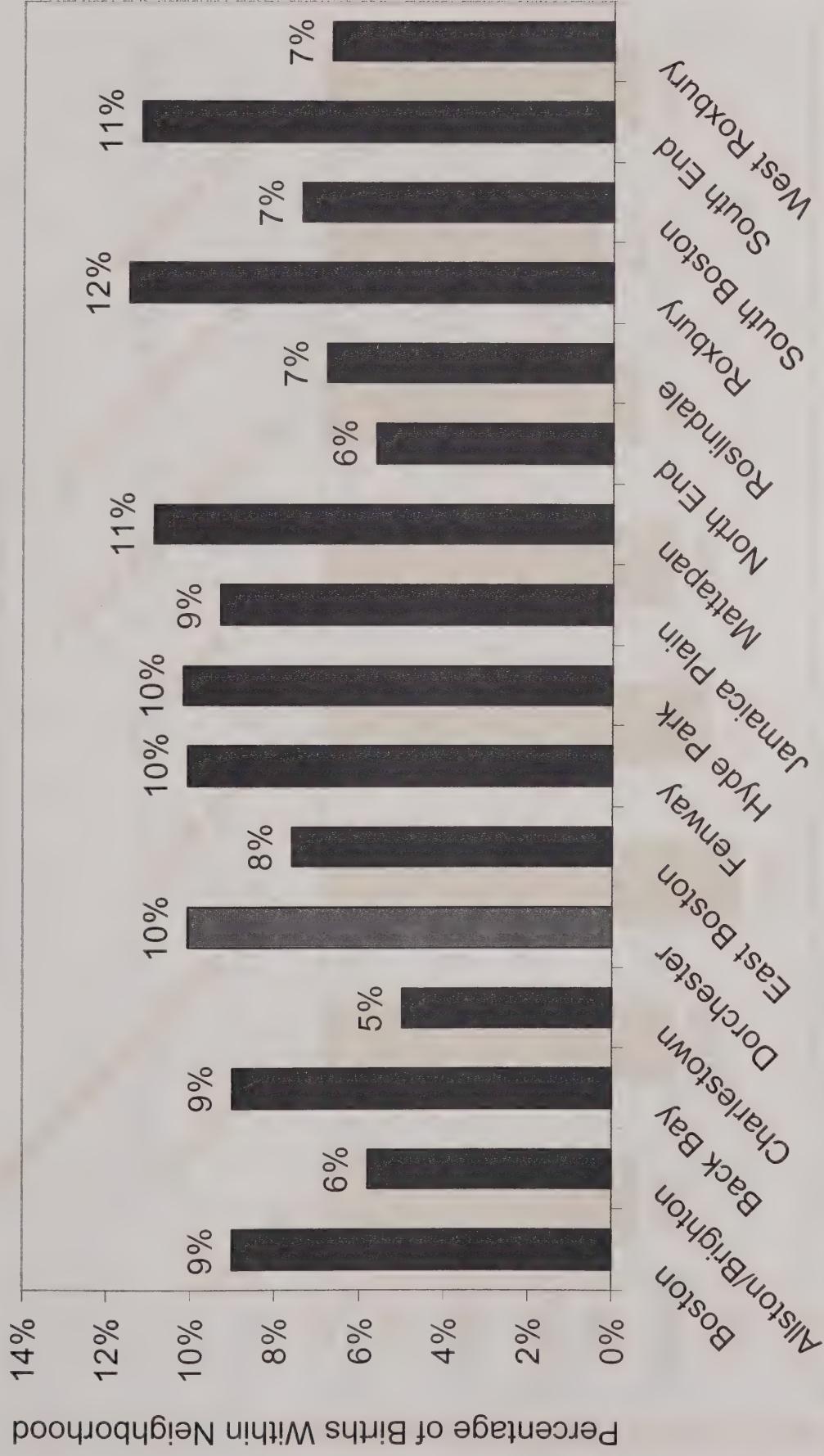


\*Dorchester section of the Grove Hall area

DATA SOURCE: Boston resident deaths and live births, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

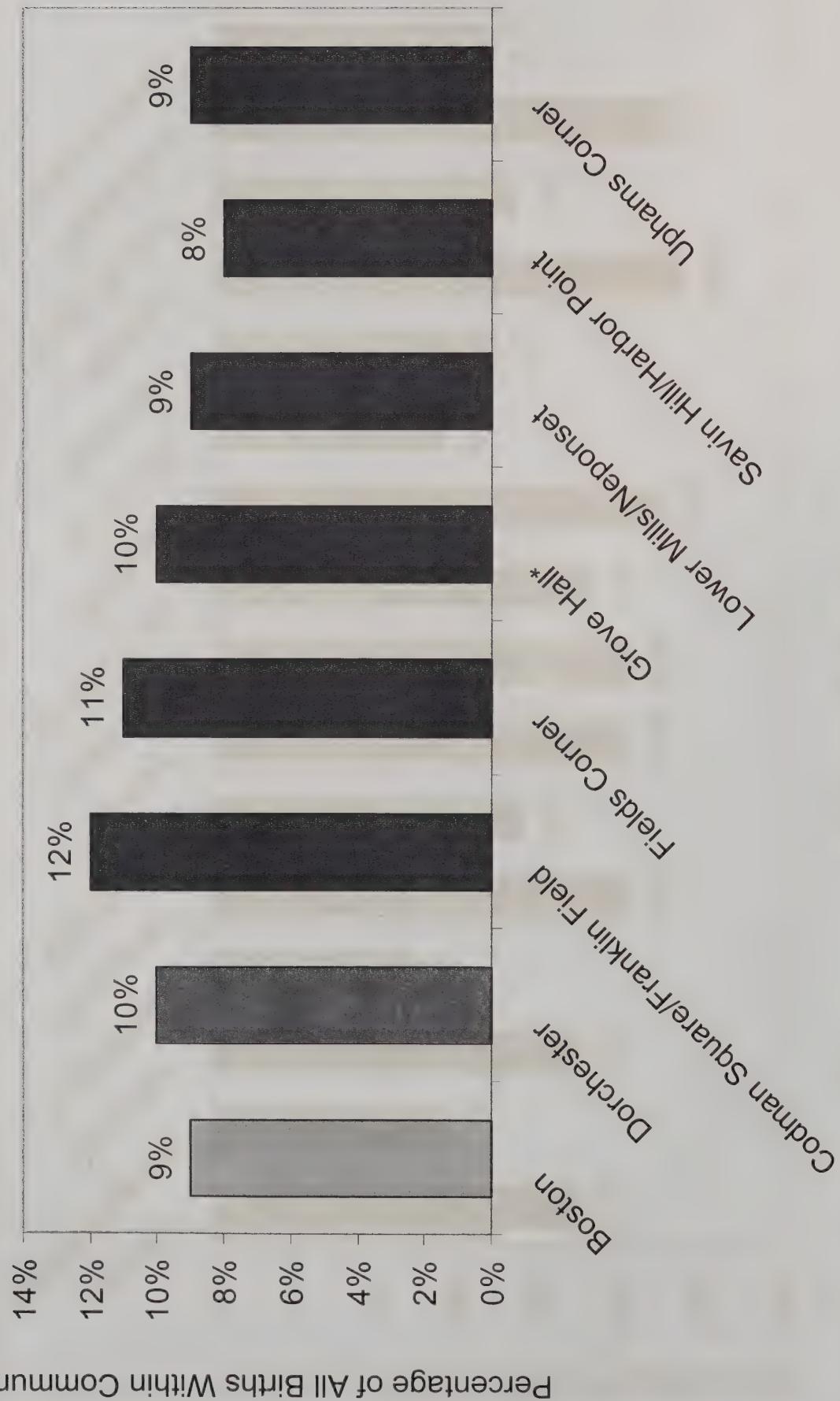
# Low Birthweight Births by Neighborhood Boston, 2000



DATA SOURCE: Boston resident live births, Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Rates are calculated using the US Census 2000 for resident population.

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

# Low Birthweight Births By Dorchester Community, 1999-2000



\*Dorchester section of the Grove Hall area  
DATA SOURCE: Boston resident live births, Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

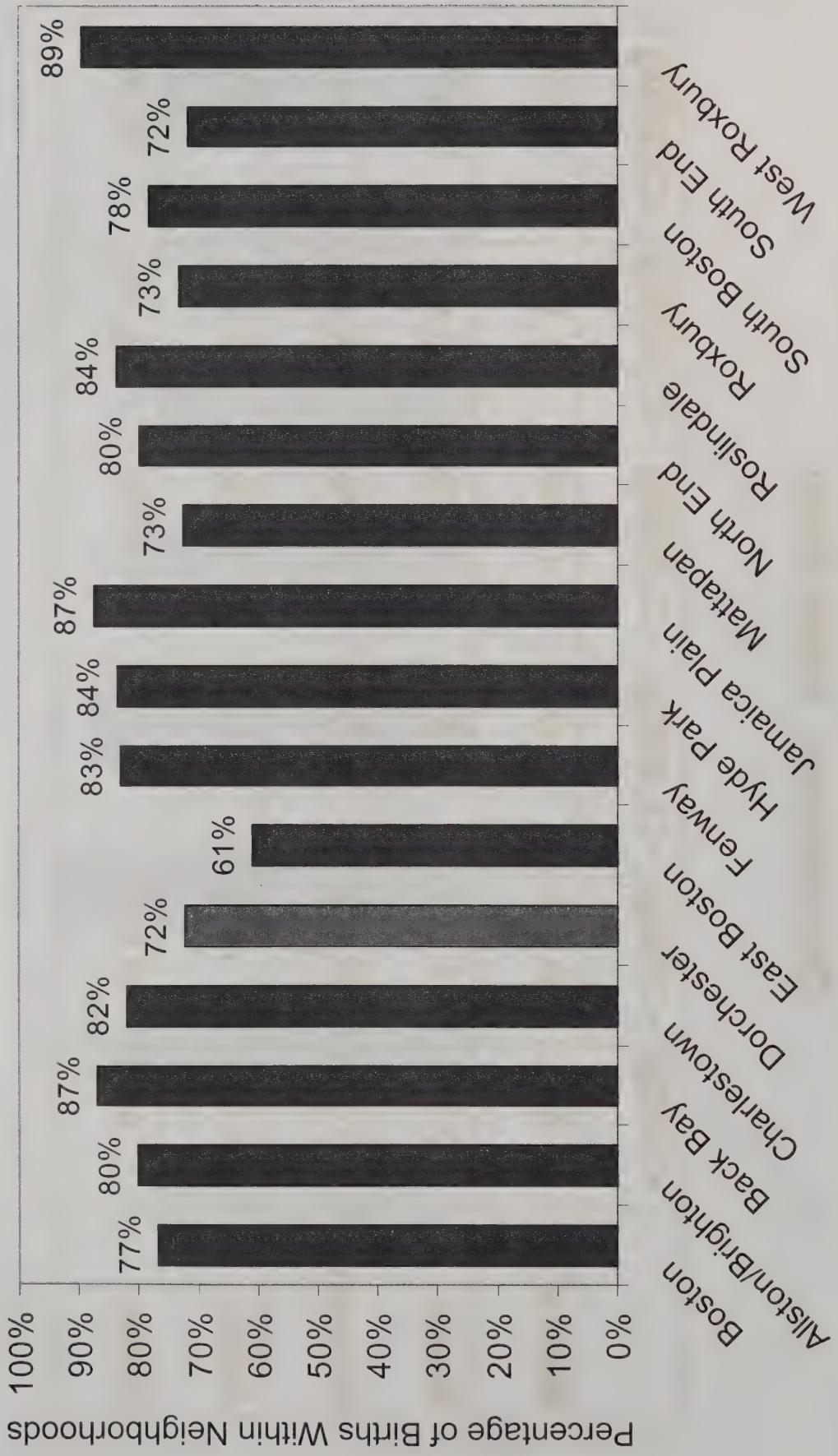
# Cumulative Birthweight Distribution <2,500g

## Dorchester, 1996-2000

	<b>&lt;500g</b>	<b>&lt;750g</b>	<b>&lt;1,000g</b>	<b>&lt;1,500g</b>	<b>&lt;2,000g</b>	<b>&lt;2,500g</b>
<b>White</b>	n<5	0.4%	0.6%	0.9%	1.9%	5.5%
<b>Black</b>	0.5%	1.3%	1.8%	3.2%	5.4%	12.7%
<b>Hispanic</b>	0.2%	0.5%	1.0%	1.5%	3.4%	8.4%
<b>Asian</b>	0.0%	n<5	n<5	1.0%	2.9%	7.0%
<b>Other</b>	n<5	0.6%	1.1%	2.3%	3.7%	9.3%

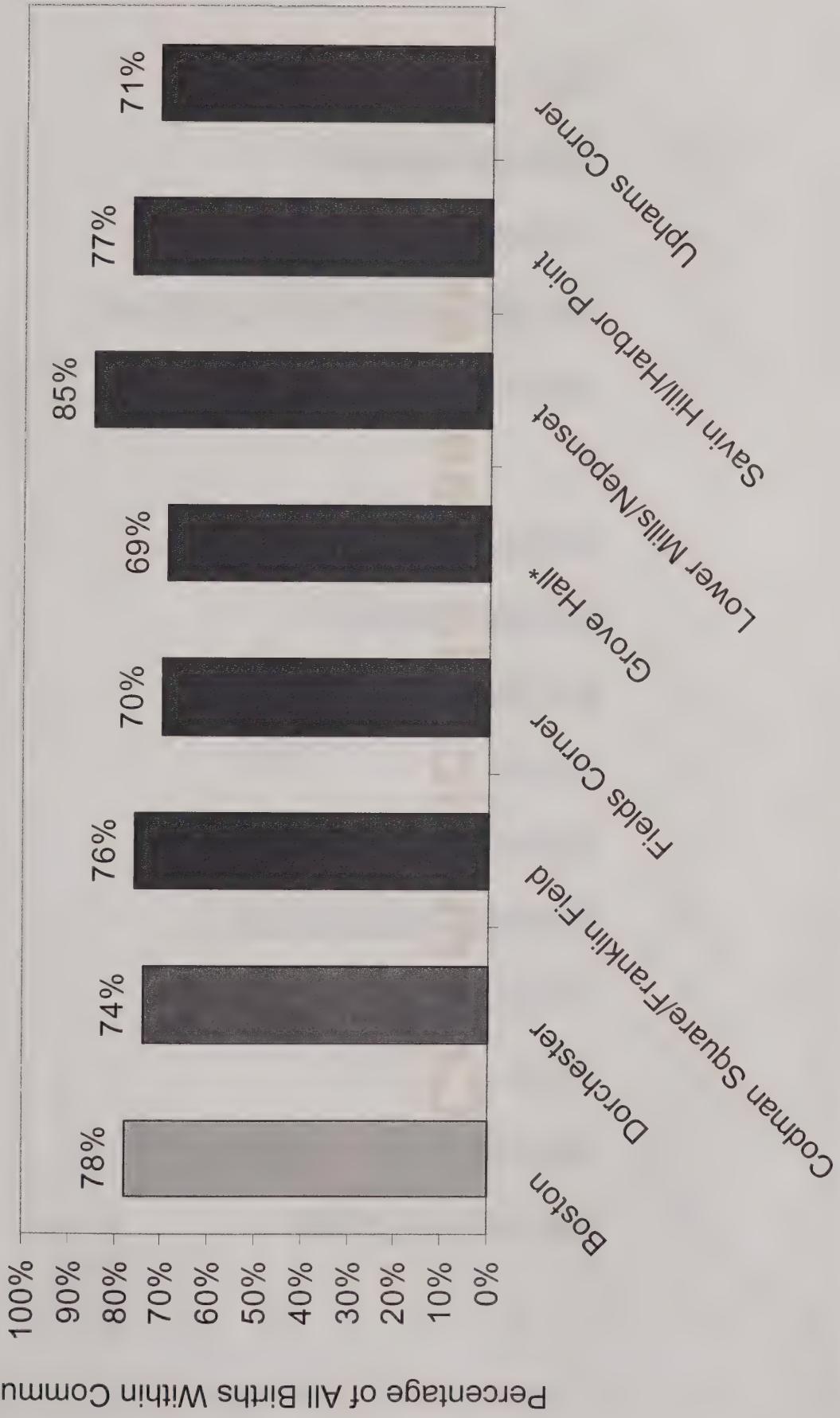
DATA SOURCE: Boston resident live birth file, Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
 DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

# Adequacy of Prenatal Care by Neighborhood Boston, 2000



DATA SOURCE: Boston resident live births, Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

# Adequate Prenatal Care By Dorchester Community, 1999-2000



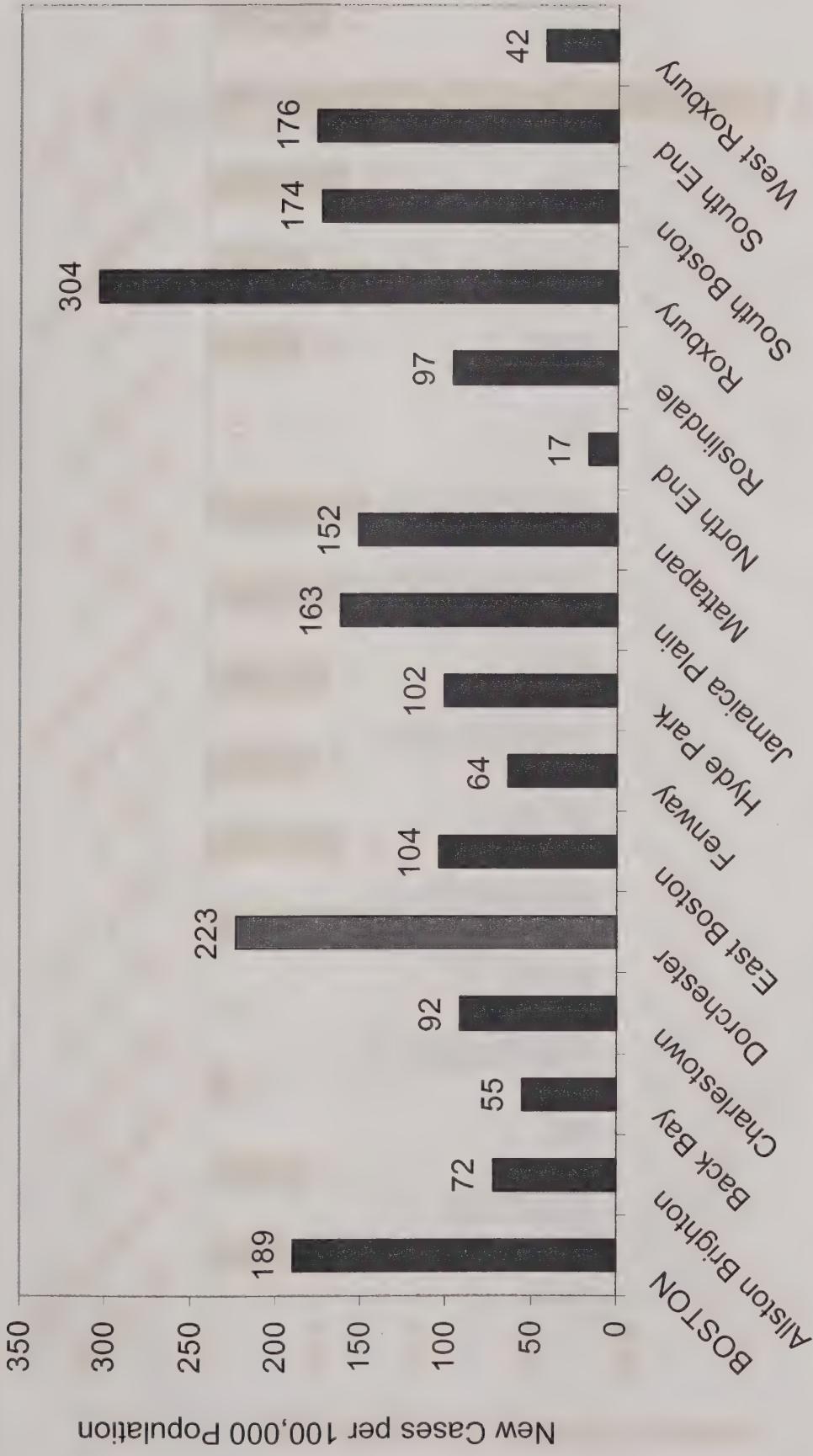
\*Dorchester section of the Grove Hall area

DATA SOURCE: Boston resident live births, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

# **Communicable Diseases**

# Hepatitis C Incidence Rates by Neighborhood Boston 2000



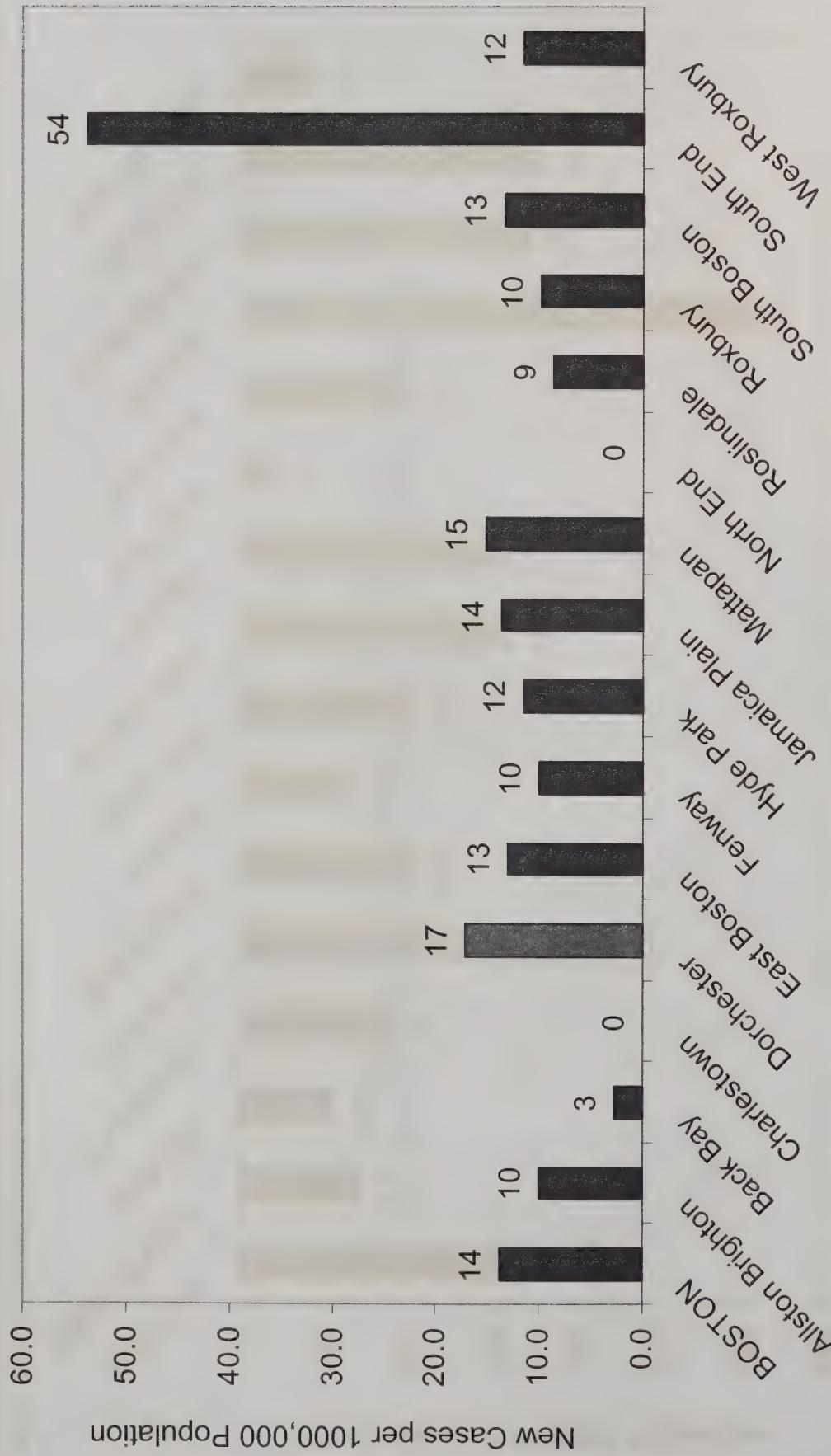
NOTE: Cases reflect year of report, not year of diagnosis.

DATA SOURCE: Communicable Disease Database, Boston Public Health Commission, Communicable Disease Control Division. Rates are calculated using the US Census 2000 for resident population.

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Communicable Disease Control Division

GRAPHIC: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

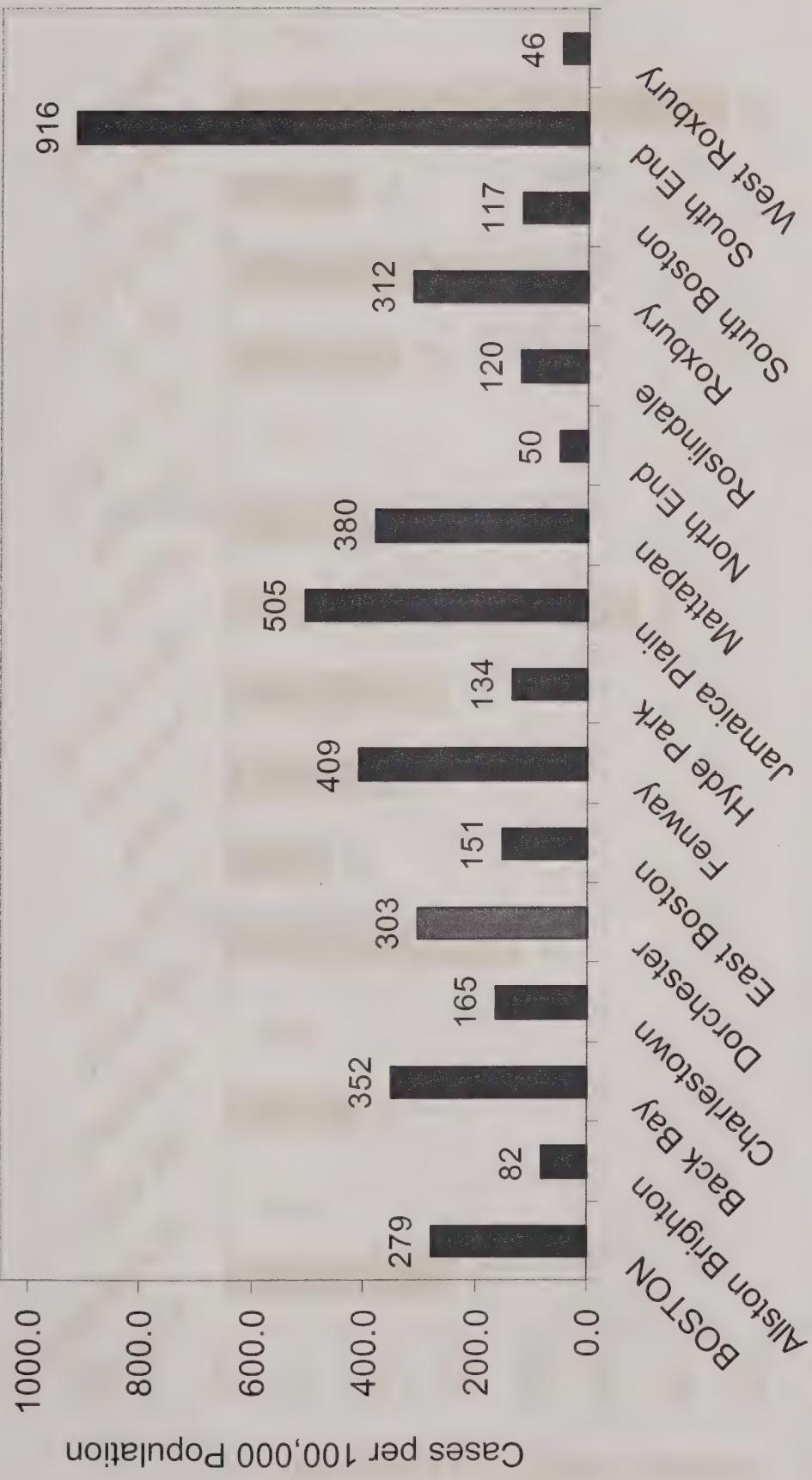
# Tuberculosis Incidence Rates by Neighborhood Boston, 2000



DATA SOURCE: Communicable Disease Database, Boston Public Health Commission, Communicable Disease Control Division.  
Rates are calculated using the US Census 2000 for resident population.

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Communicable Disease Control Division  
GRAPHIC: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

# Cumulative HIV\* Incidence Rates by Neighborhood As of May 1, 2002



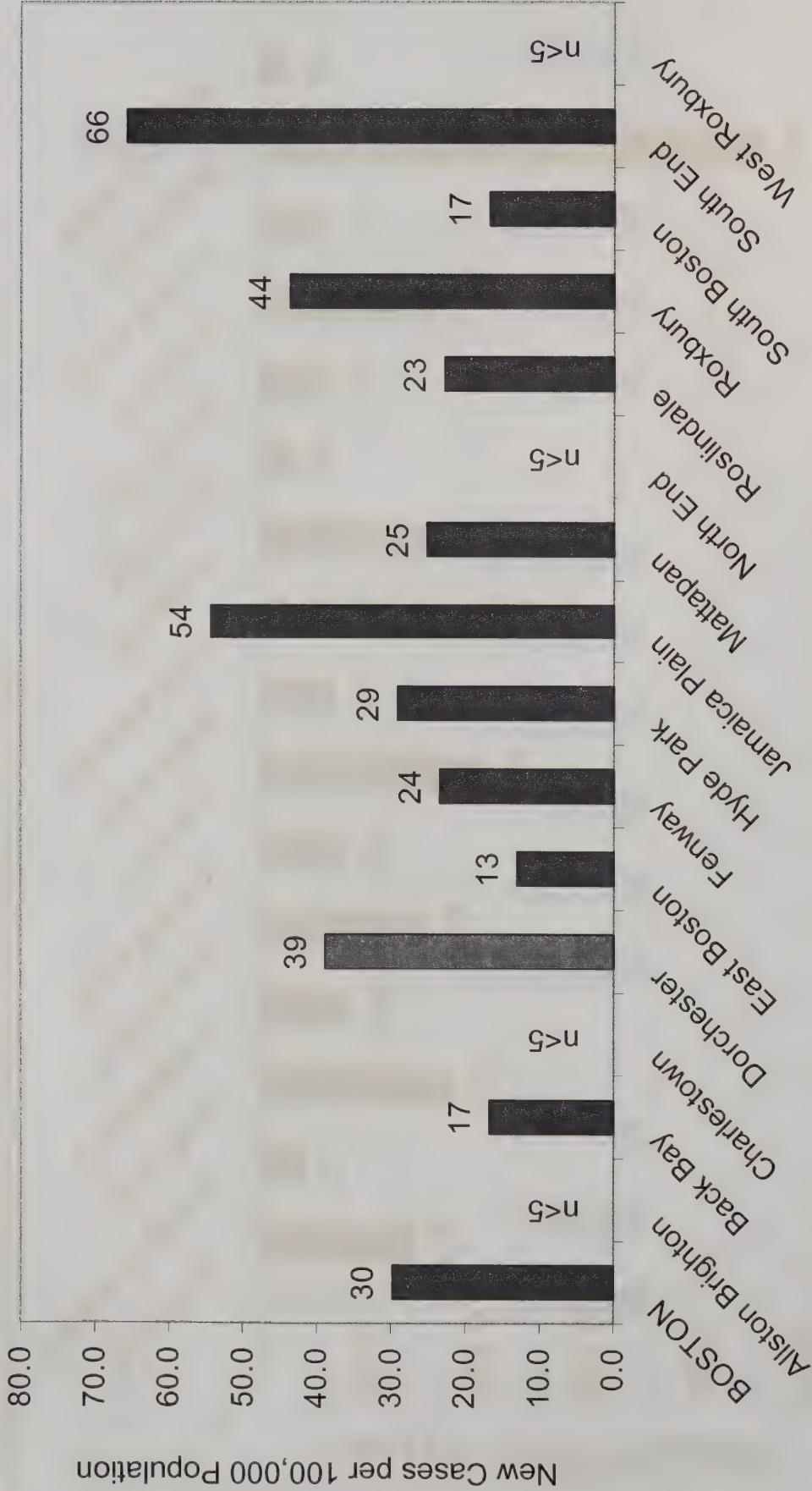
\*HIV refers to HIV Alive Cases defined by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

DATA SOURCE: AIDS Reporting System Data, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Communicable Disease Control, AIDS Surveillance Program. Rates are calculated using the US Census 2000 for resident population.

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Communicable Disease Control Division

GRAPHIC: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

# AIDS Incidence Rates by Neighborhood Boston, 2000

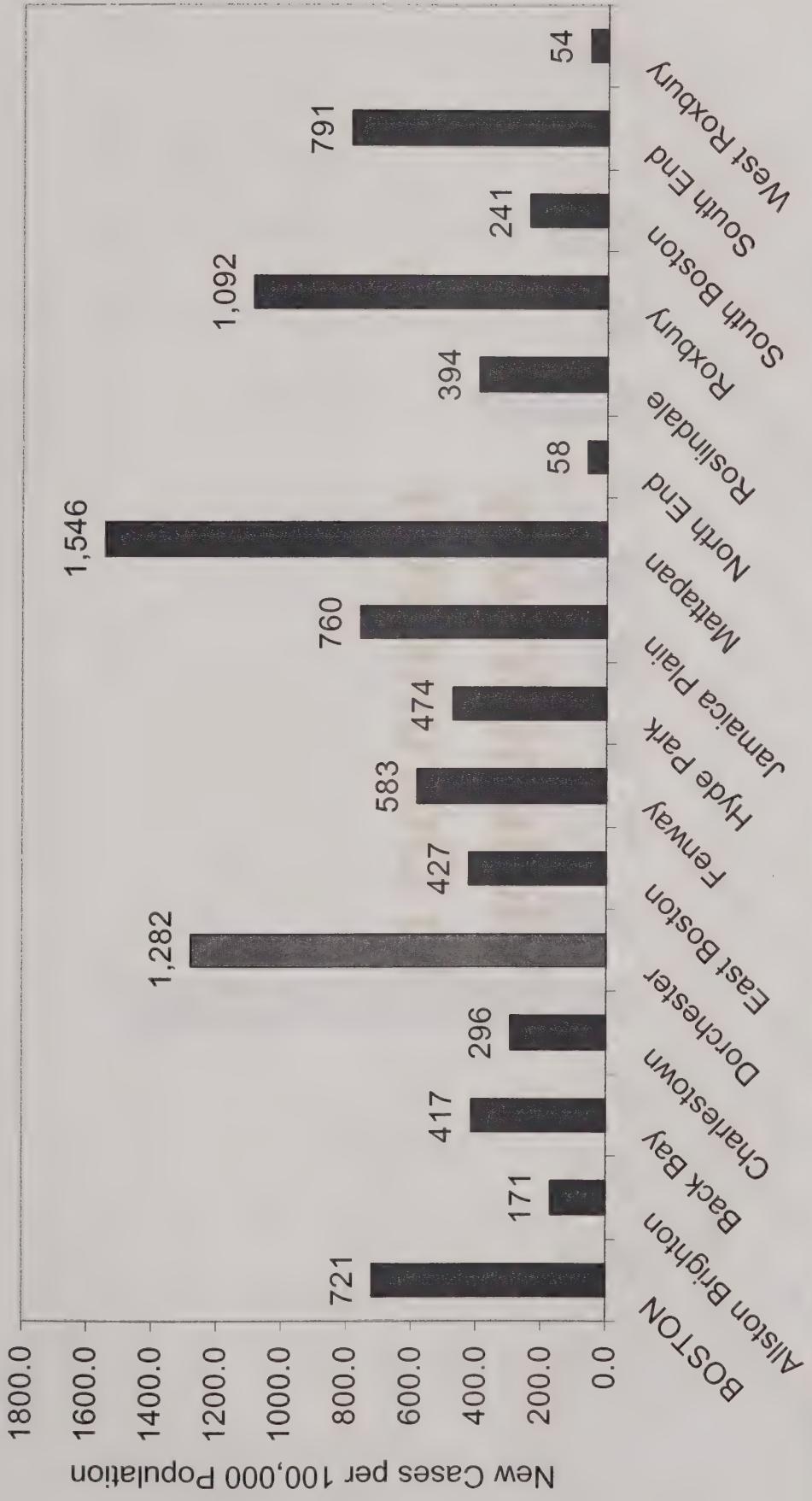


DATA SOURCE: AIDS Reporting System Data, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Communicable Disease Control. Rates are calculated using the US Census 2000 for resident population.

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Communicable Disease Control Division

GRAPHIC: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

# Sexually Transmitted Disease\* Incidence Rates by Neighborhood Boston, 2000



\*Sexually Transmitted Diseases include Chlamydia, Syphilis, and Gonorrhea.

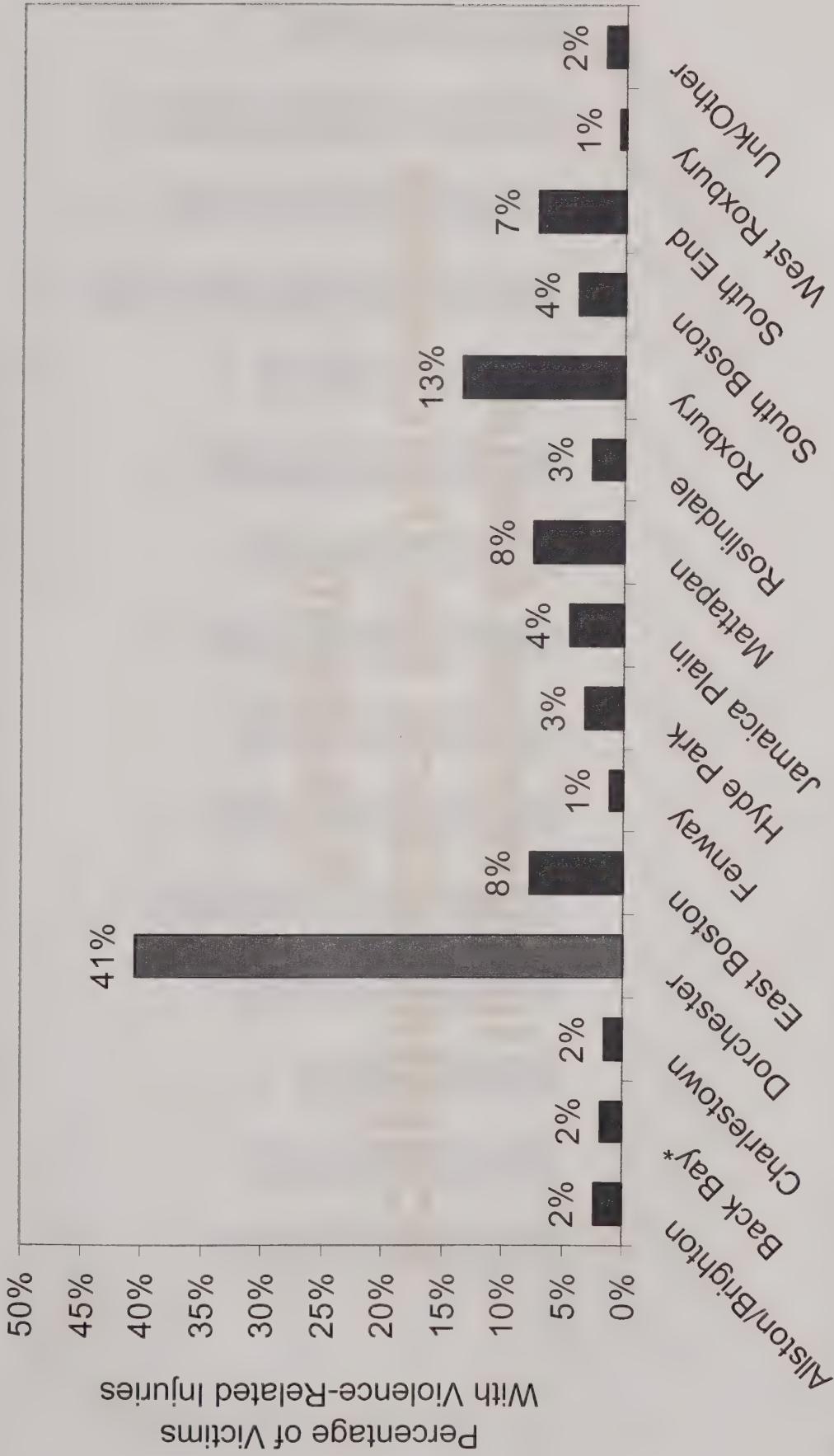
DATA SOURCE: Selected STDs for Boston Report, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, STD Division. Rates are calculated using the US Census 2000 for resident population.

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Communicable Disease Control Division

GRAPHIC: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

**violent injury  
In Dorchester**

# Victims of Violence-Related Gunshot and Sharp Instrument Injuries By Neighborhood, Boston, 1998-2001



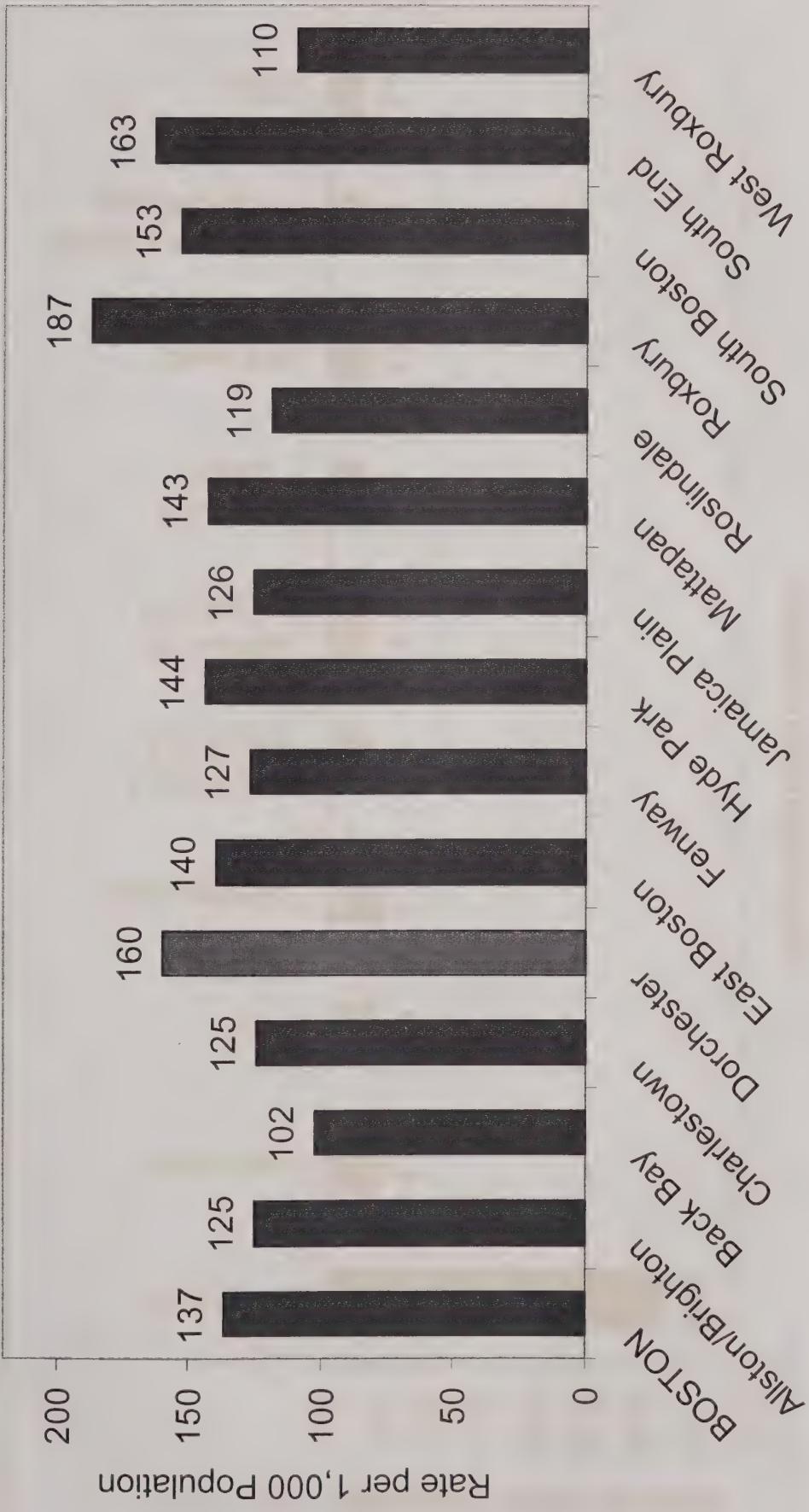
\*Includes the North End

DATA SOURCE: Weapons-Related Injury Surveillance System (SP), Massachusetts Department of Public Health

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

**Information About  
Hospitalizations for Dorchester  
Residents**

# Hospitalization Age-Adjusted Rates by Neighborhood Boston, 2000



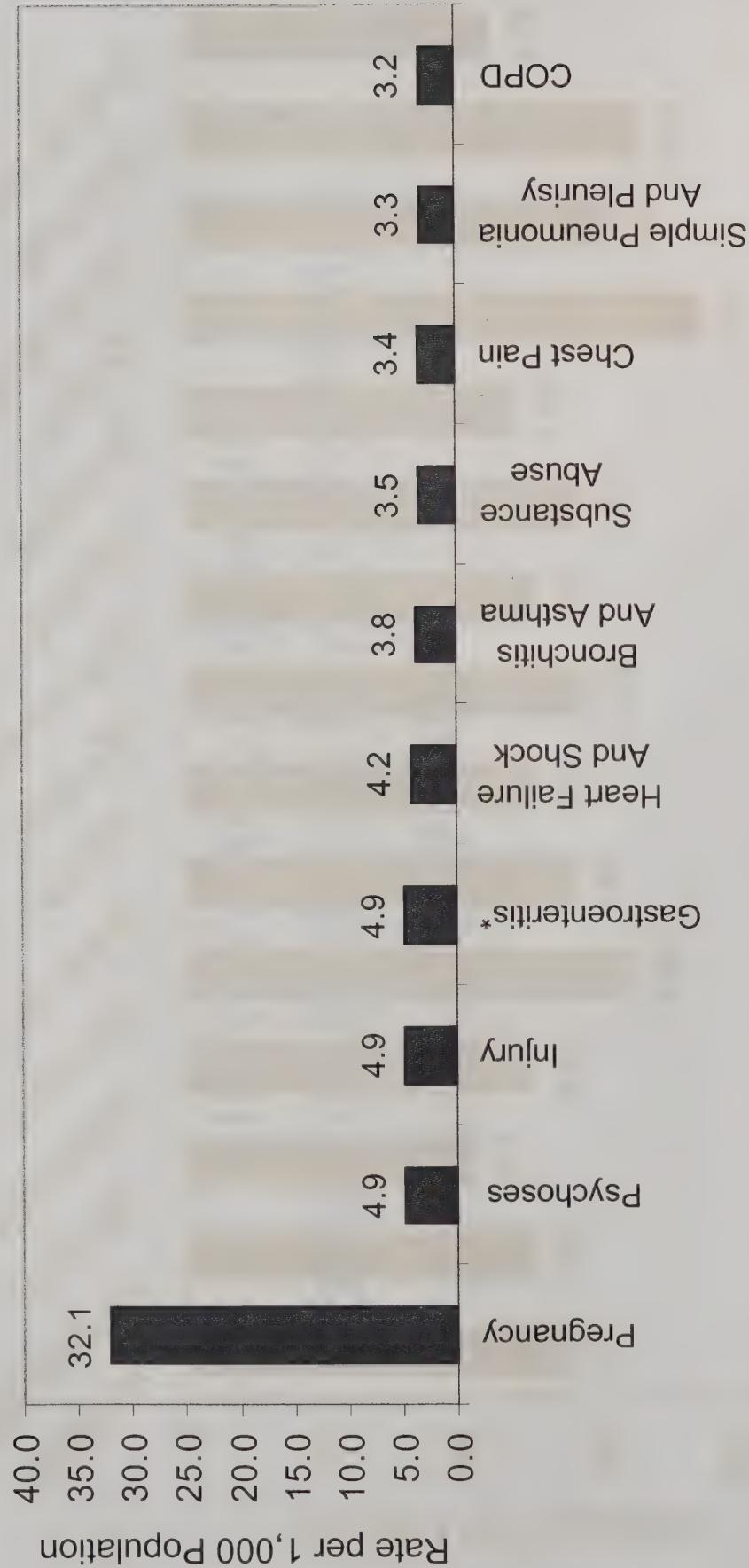
NOTE: These rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population.

DATA SOURCE: 1997-2000 Acute Case Mix, Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy. Rates are calculated using the US Census 2000 for resident population by zip code.

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office.

# Leading Causes of Hospitalization Dorchester, 2000

## Age-Adjusted Rates



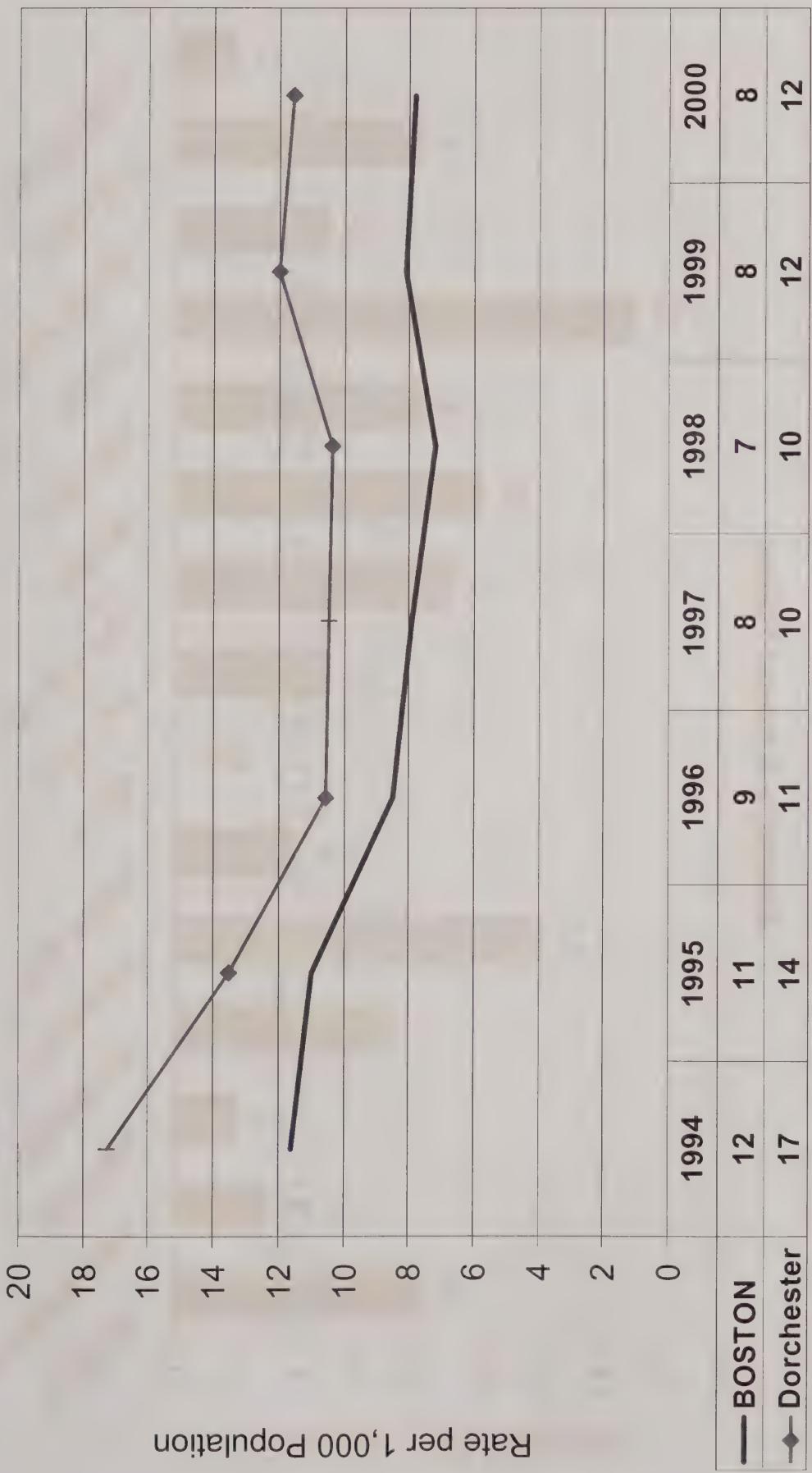
\*Also includes esophagitis and miscellaneous digestive disorders.

NOTE: These rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population; newborns have been excluded.

DATA SOURCE: 1997-2000 Acute Case Mix, Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy. Rates are calculated using the US Census 2000 for resident population by zip code.

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office.

# Asthma Hospitalization Rates Among Children Under Age 5 By Year, Boston, 1994-2000

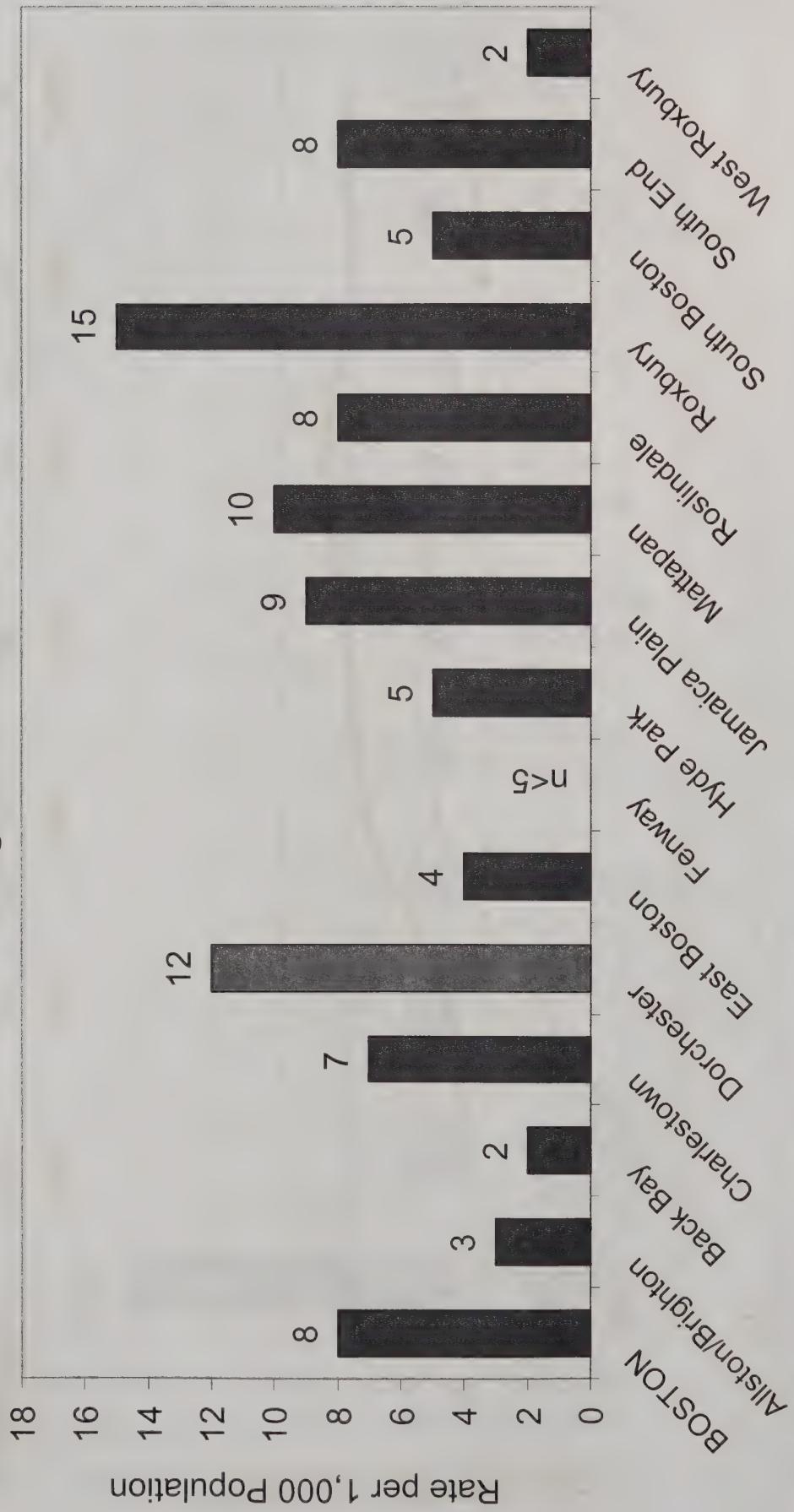


DATA SOURCE: 1997-2000 Acute Case Mix, Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy; 1994-1996 discharge data, Massachusetts Health Data Consortium, Inc. Rates are calculated using resident population estimates from MISER for 1991-1998, Massachusetts Department of Public Health 1999 Preliminary Population Estimates, the US Census 1990 and 2000 for resident population and resident population by zip code.

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office.

# Asthma Hospitalization Rates Among Children Under Age 5 By Neighborhood\*, Boston, 1999-2000

Average Annual Rates



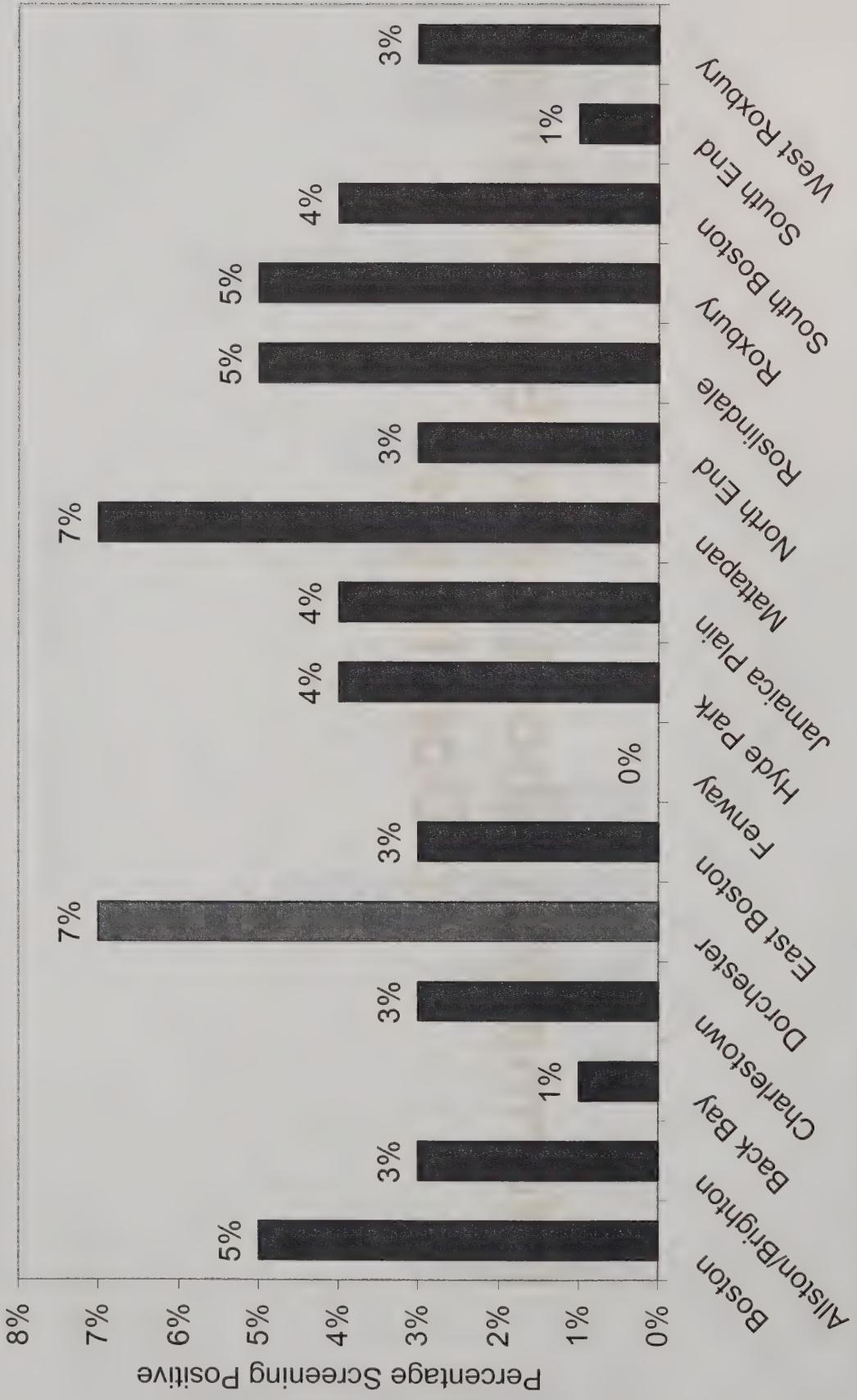
\*North End data have been incorporated with Back Bay.

DATA SOURCE: 1997-2000 Acute Case Mix, Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy. Rates are calculated using the US 2000 Census for resident population by zip code.

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

# **Information About Lead Screening In Dorchester**

# Prevalence of Elevated Blood Lead Levels\* by Neighborhood Boston, 2001



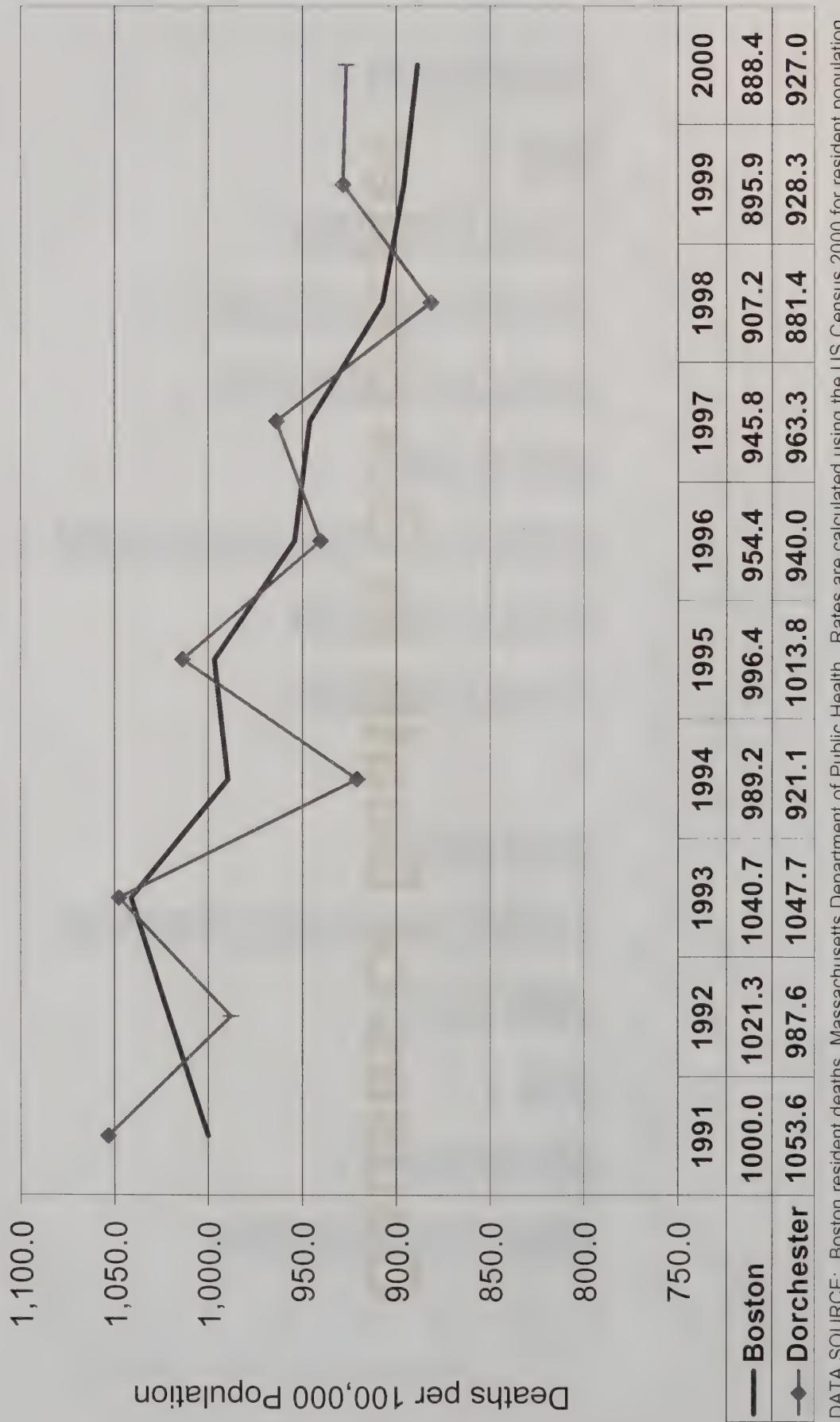
\*Blood lead level of 10ug/dl or higher.

DATA SOURCE: Lead Screening Data, Boston Public Health Commission, Office of Environmental Health

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Office of Environmental Health

# Causes of Death in Dorchester

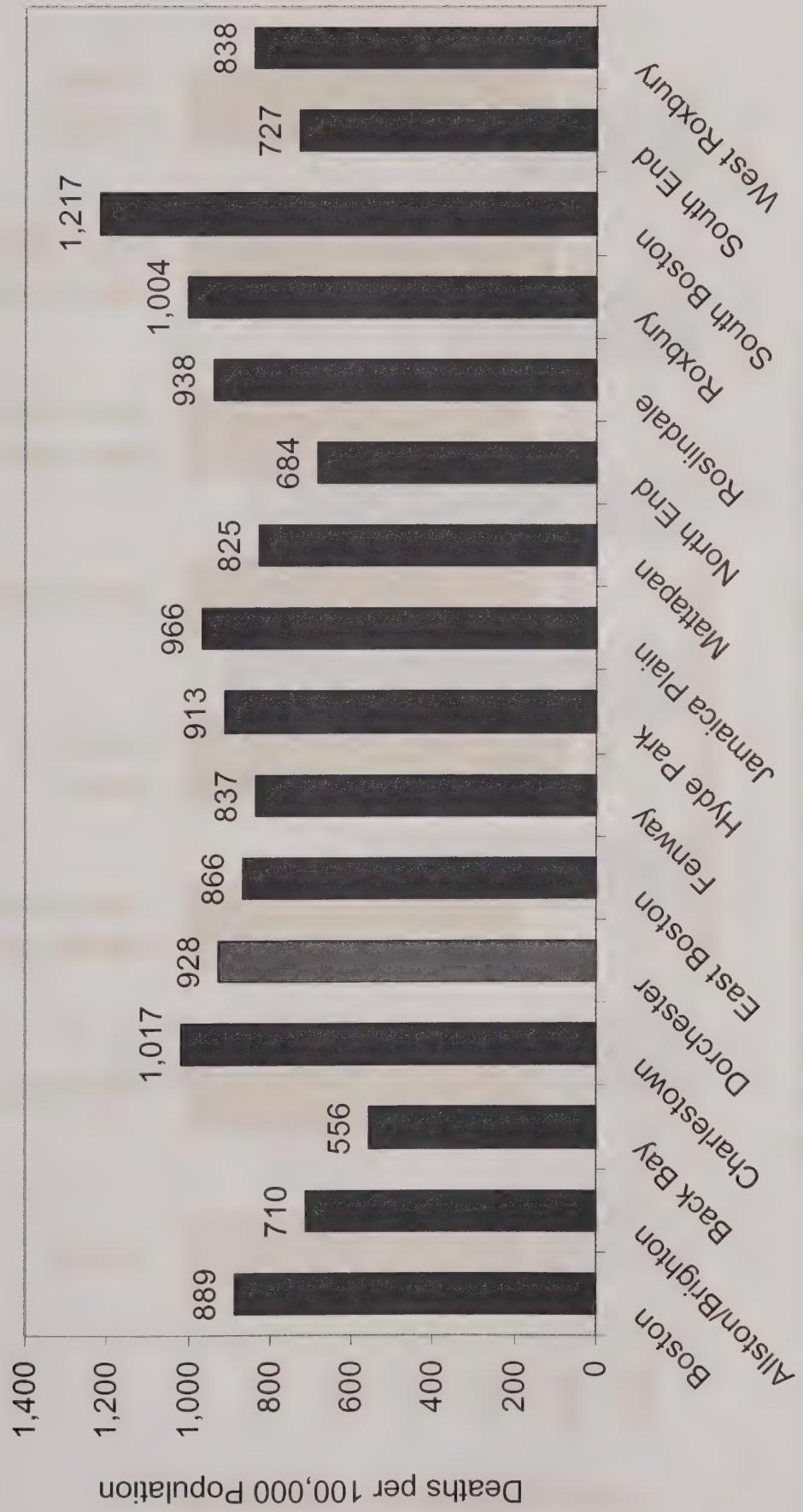
## Overall Mortality Boston and Dorchester, 1991-2000



DATA SOURCE: Boston resident deaths, Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Rates are calculated using the US Census 2000 for resident population.  
DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

# Overall Mortality by Neighborhood Boston, 1999-2000

## Age-Adjusted Average Annual Rates

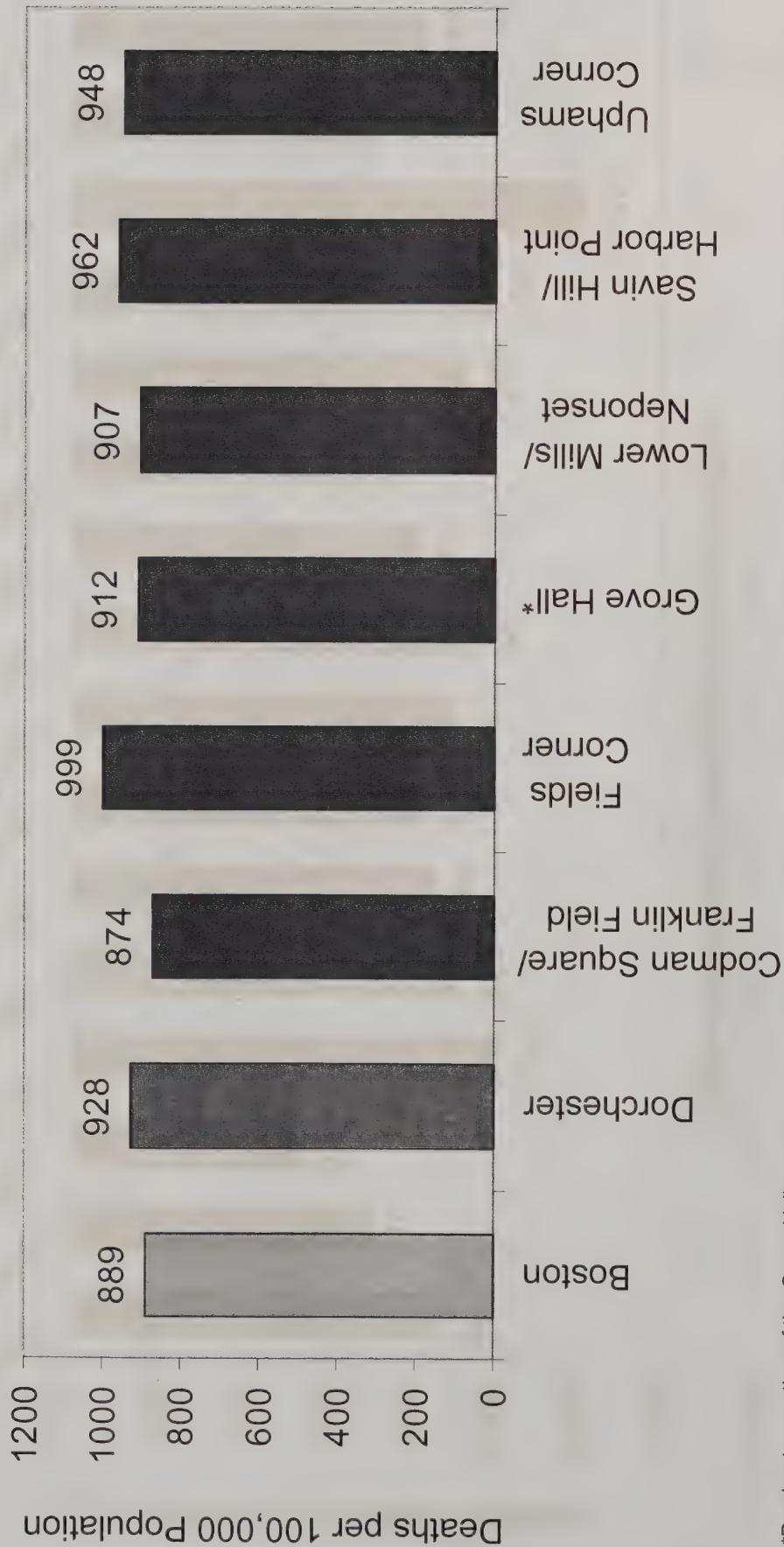


DATA SOURCE: Boston resident deaths, Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Rates are calculated using the US Census 2000 for resident population.

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

# Overall Mortality Age-Adjusted Rates By Dorchester Community, 1999-2000

## Average Annual Rates



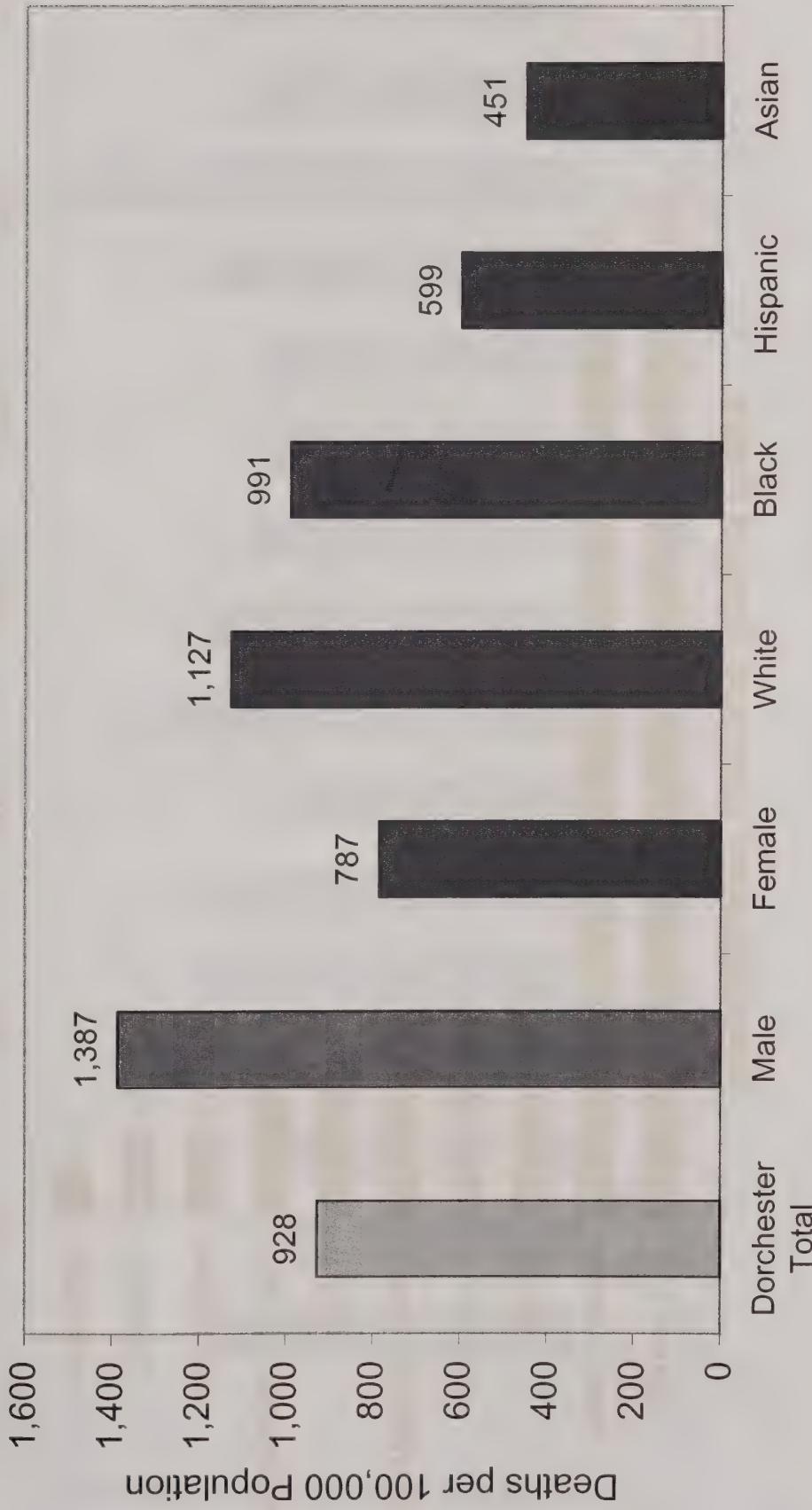
\*Dorchester section of the Grove Hall area

DATA SOURCE: Boston resident deaths, Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

RATES ARE CALCULATED USING THE US CENSUS 2000 FOR RESIDENT POPULATION.  
DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

# Overall Mortality by Race/Ethnicity and Sex Dorchester, 1999-2000

## Age-Adjusted Average Annual Rates

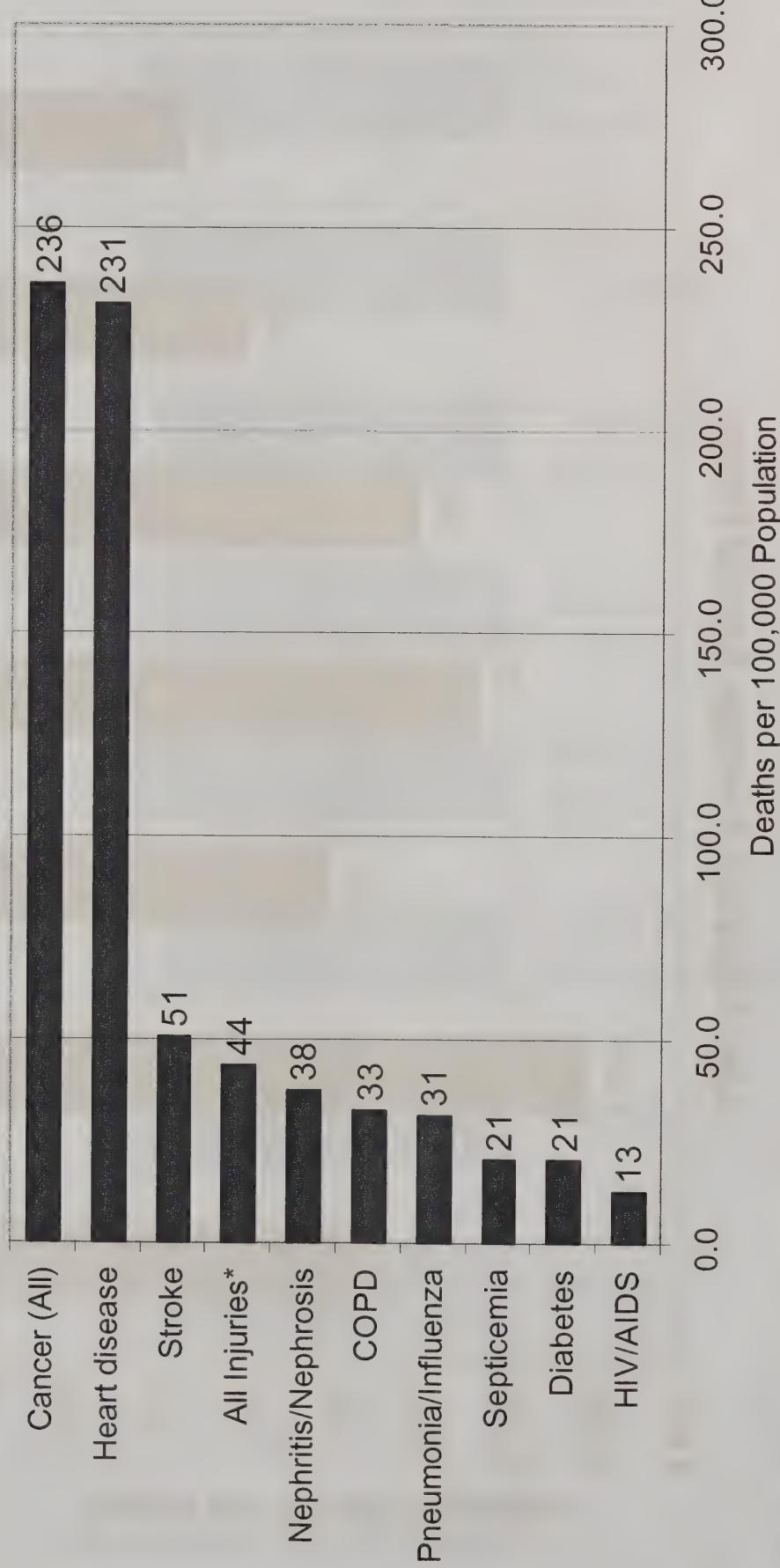


DATA SOURCE: Boston resident deaths, Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Rates are calculated using the US Census 2000 for resident population.

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

# Leading Causes of Death Dorchester, 1999-2000

## Age-Adjusted Average Annual Rates

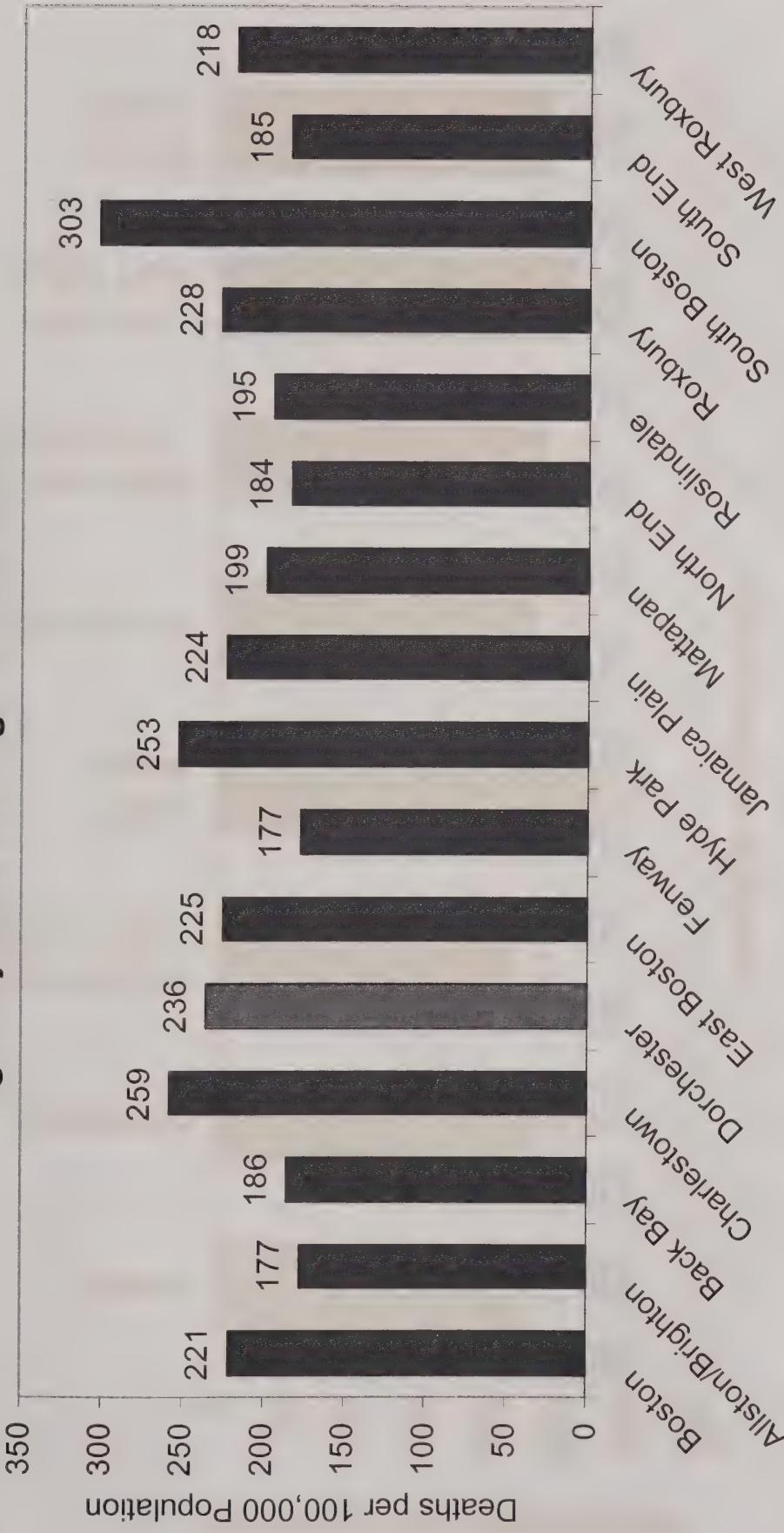


\*Deaths due to all injuries combined include unintentional deaths (accidents, motor vehicle related), intentional deaths (homicide and suicide), and injuries with intent unknown at the time when the death certificate was issued.

DATA SOURCE: Boston resident deaths, Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Rates are calculated using the US Census 2000 for resident population.  
DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

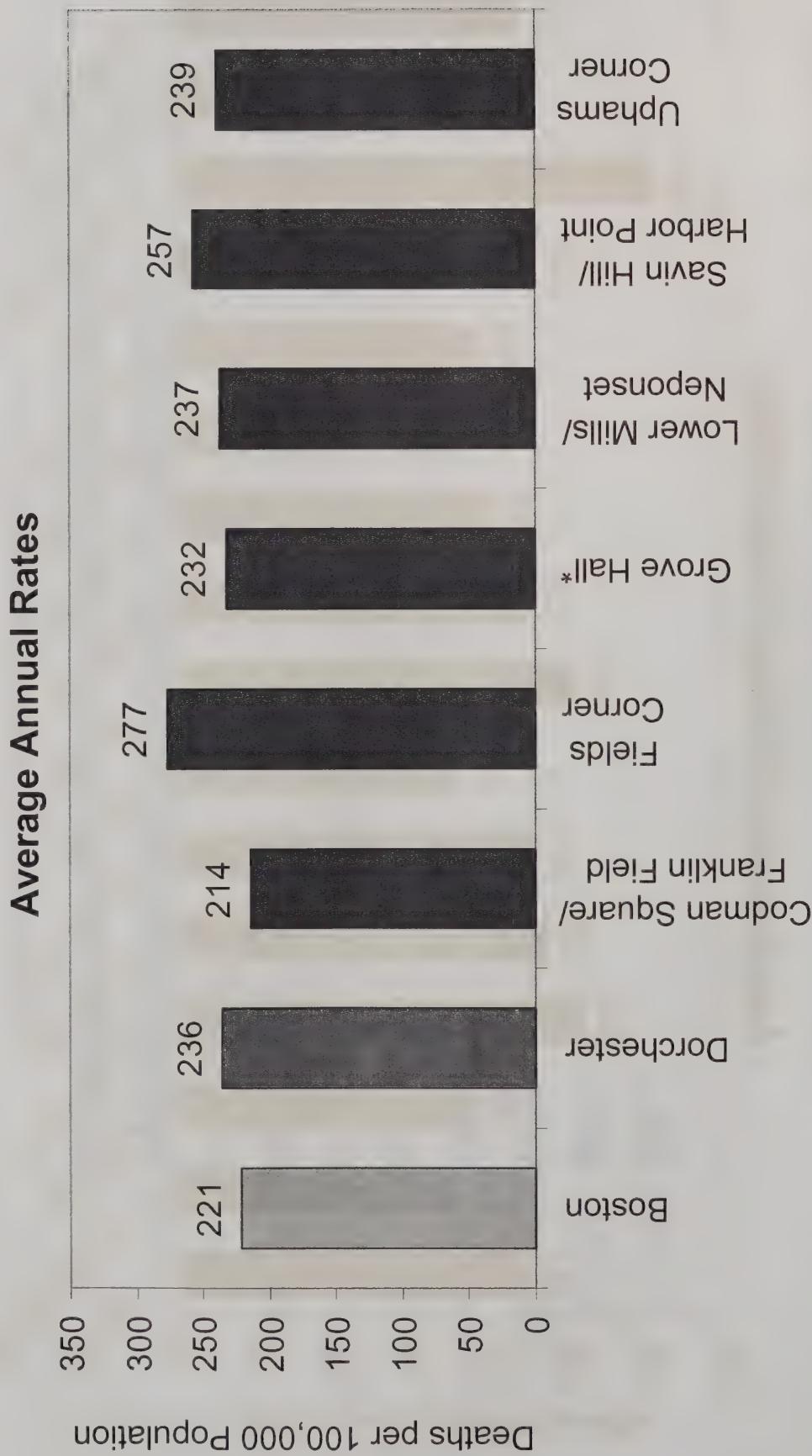
# Cancer Mortality by Neighborhood Boston, 1999-2000

## Age-Adjusted Average Annual Rates



DATA SOURCE: Boston resident deaths, Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Rates are calculated using the US Census 2000 for resident population.  
DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

# Cancer Mortality Age-Adjusted Rates By Dorchester Community, 1999-2000



\*Dorchester section of the Grove Hall area

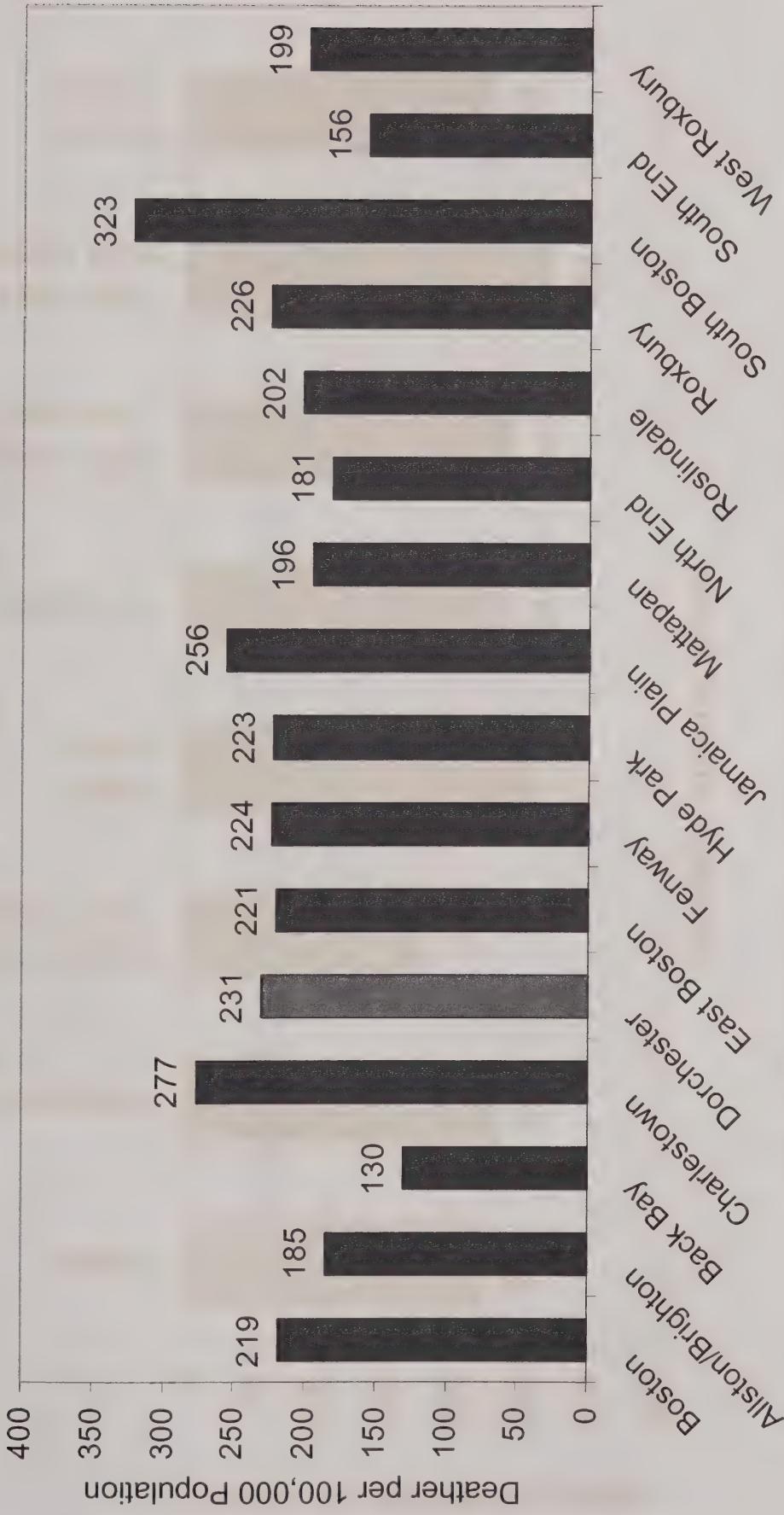
DATA SOURCE: Boston resident deaths, Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Rates are calculated using the US Census 2000 for resident population.

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

# Heart Disease Mortality by Neighborhood Boston, 1999-2000

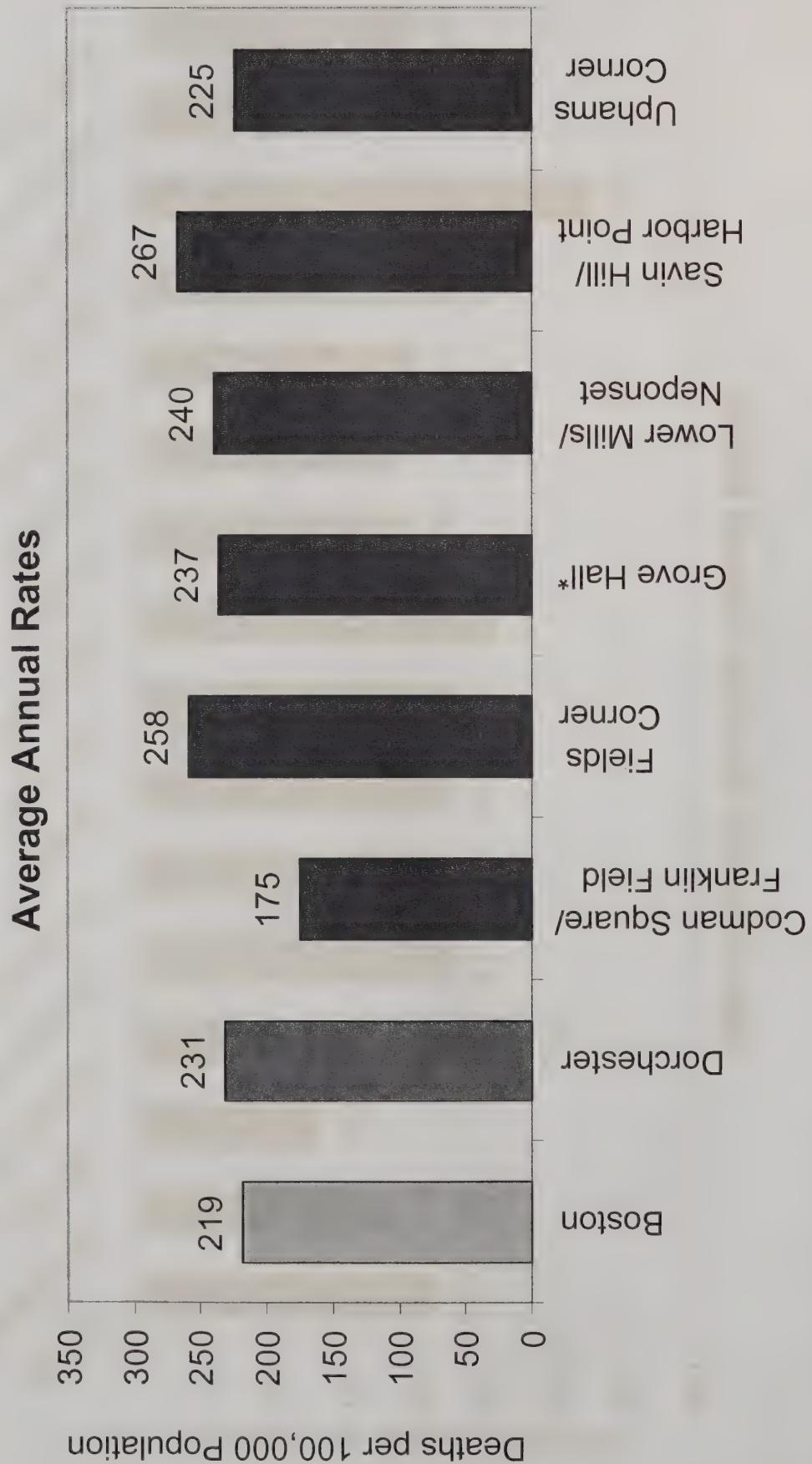
## Age-Adjusted Average Annual Rates



DATA SOURCE: Boston resident deaths, Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Rates are calculated using the US Census 2000 for resident population.

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

# Heart Disease Mortality Age-Adjusted Rates By Dorchester Community, 1999-2000



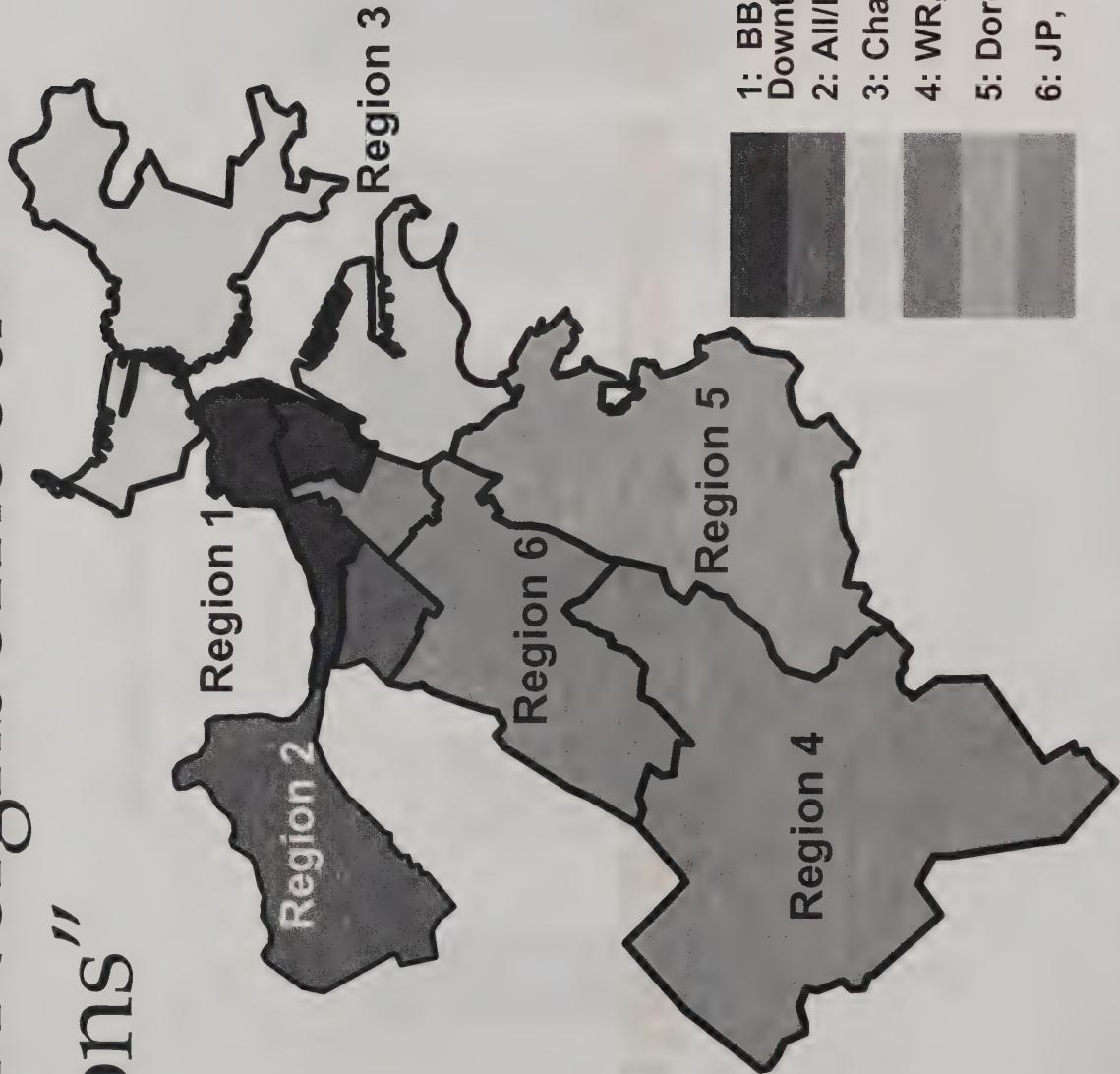
\*Dorchester section of the Grove Hall area

DATA SOURCE: Boston resident deaths, Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Rates are calculated using the US Census 2000 for resident population.

DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

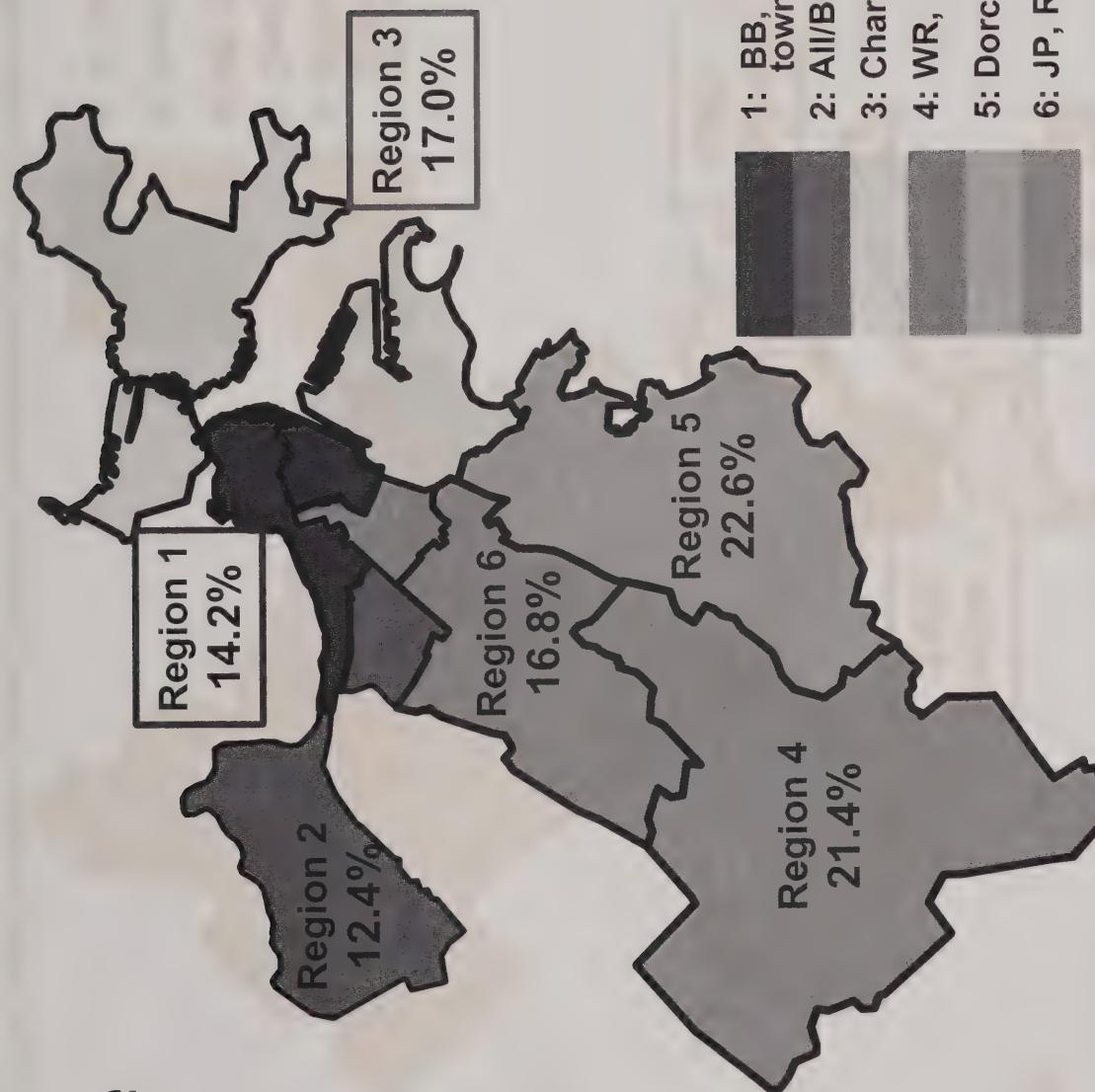
## **Selected BFRSS Results by Region**

# Boston Neighborhood “Regions”



- 1: BB, BH, NE, WE,  
Downtown, Chinatown
- 2: All/Bright, Fenway
- 3: Charlestown, EB, SB
- 4: WR, Roslindale, HP
- 5: Dorchester, Mattapan
- 6: JP, Roxbury, SE

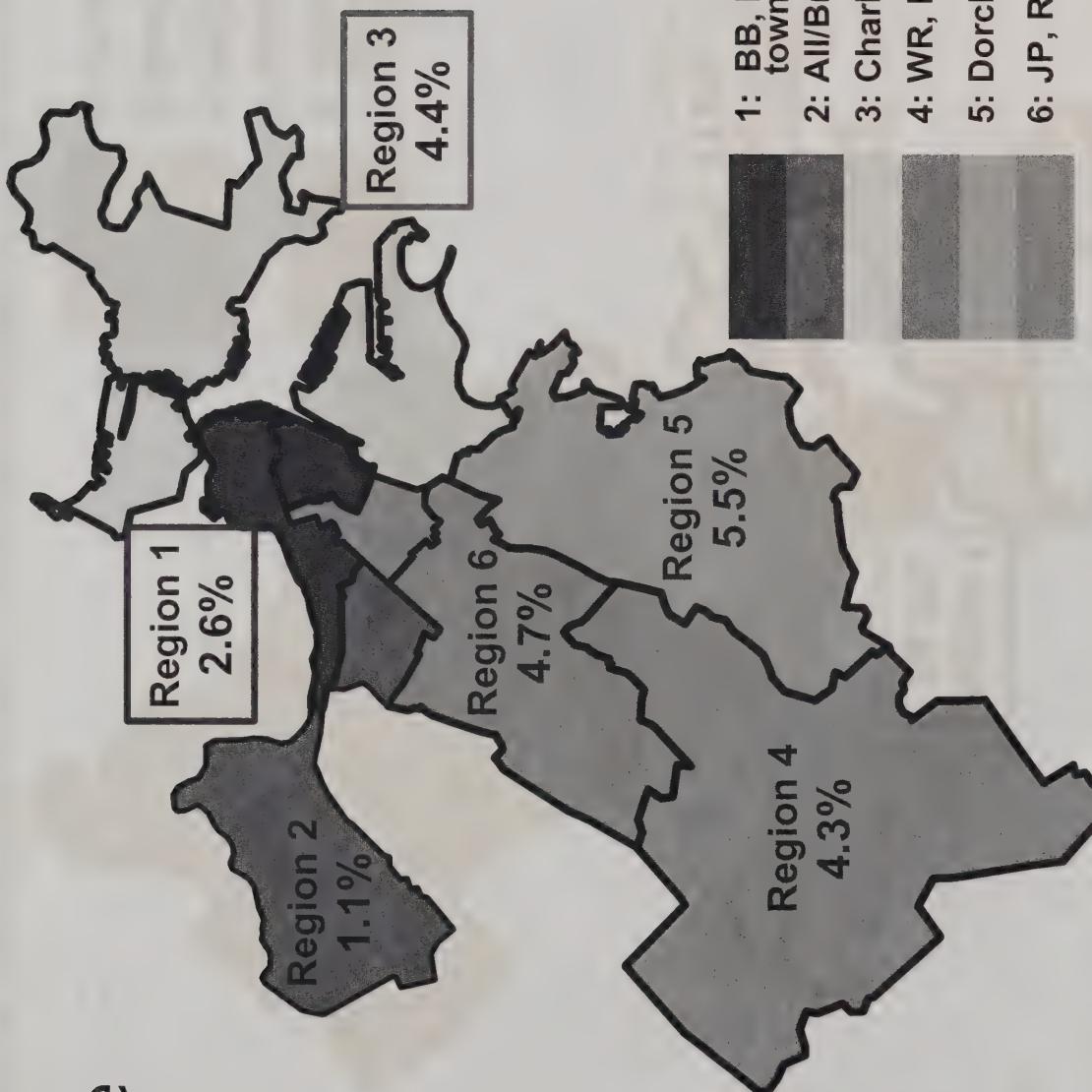
# Percentage of Boston Adults Ever Diagnosed with High Blood Pressure



DATA SOURCE: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 1999, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and Boston Public Health Commission

MAP PREPARATION: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

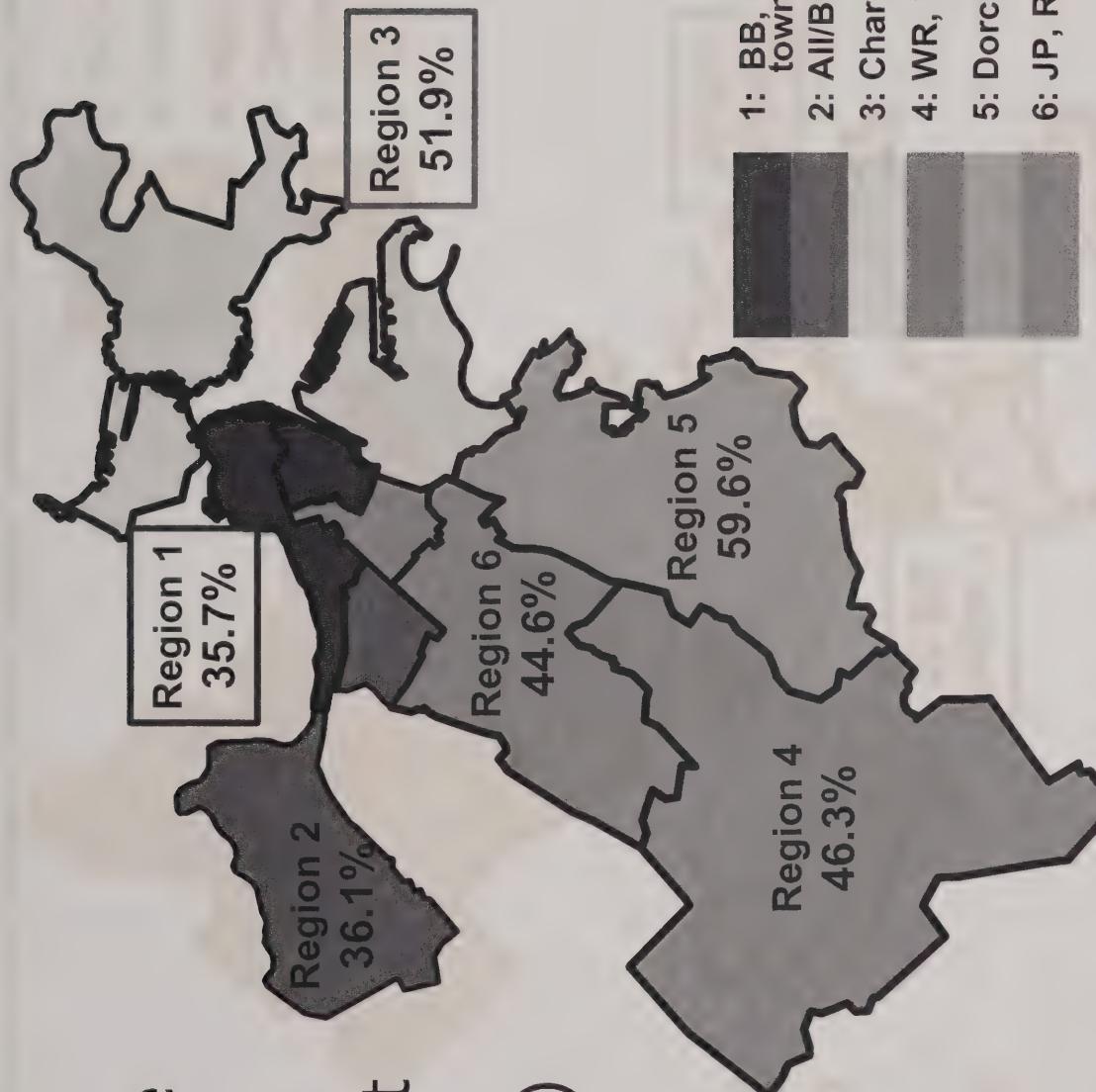
Percentage  
of Boston  
Adults  
Ever  
Diagnosed  
with  
Diabetes



DATA SOURCE: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 1998-1999, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and Boston Public Health Commission

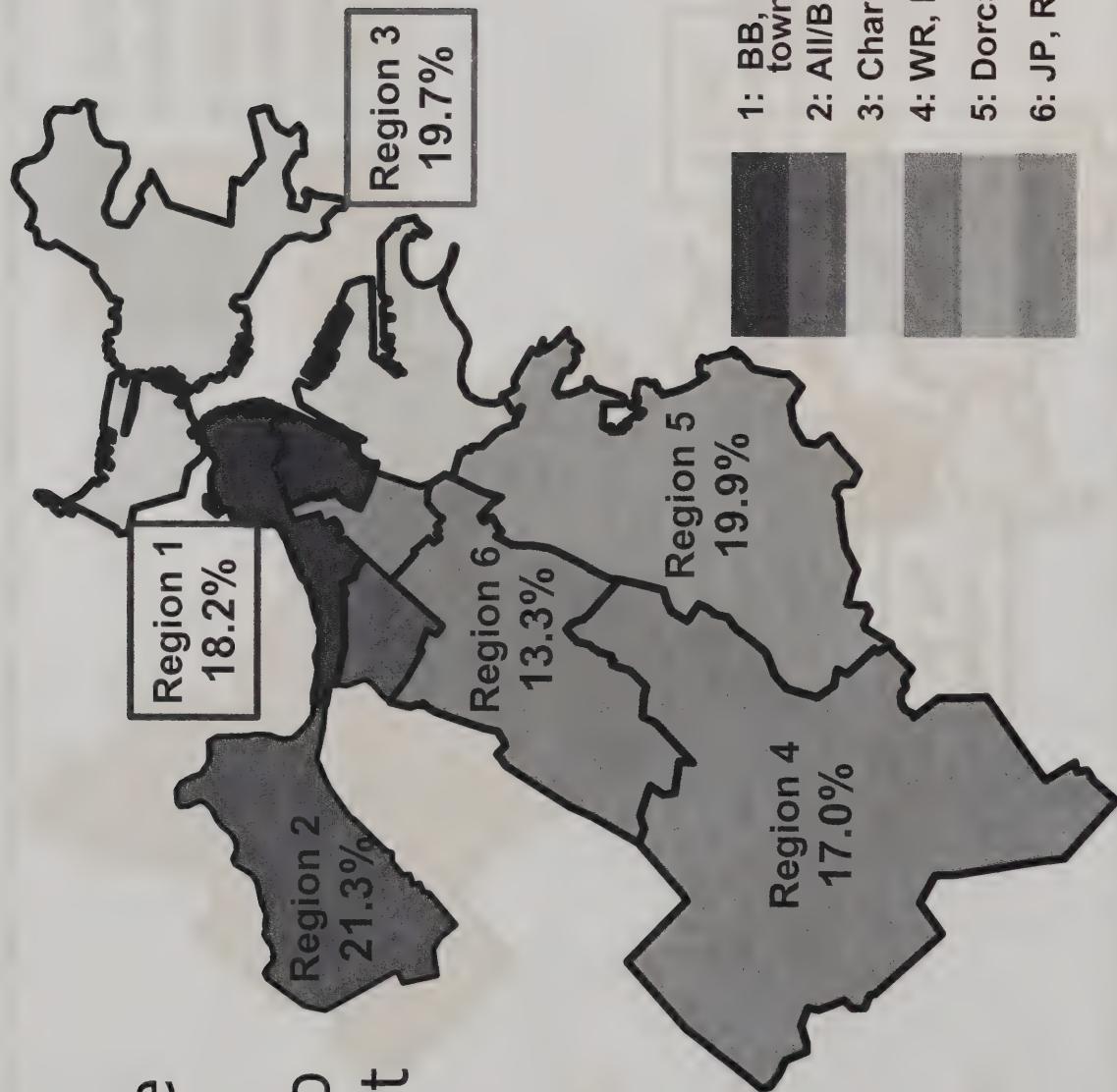
MAP PREPARATION: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

## Percentage of Boston Adults Overweight or Obese (combined)



DATA SOURCE: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 1998-1999, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and Boston Public Health Commission  
MAP PREPARATION: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

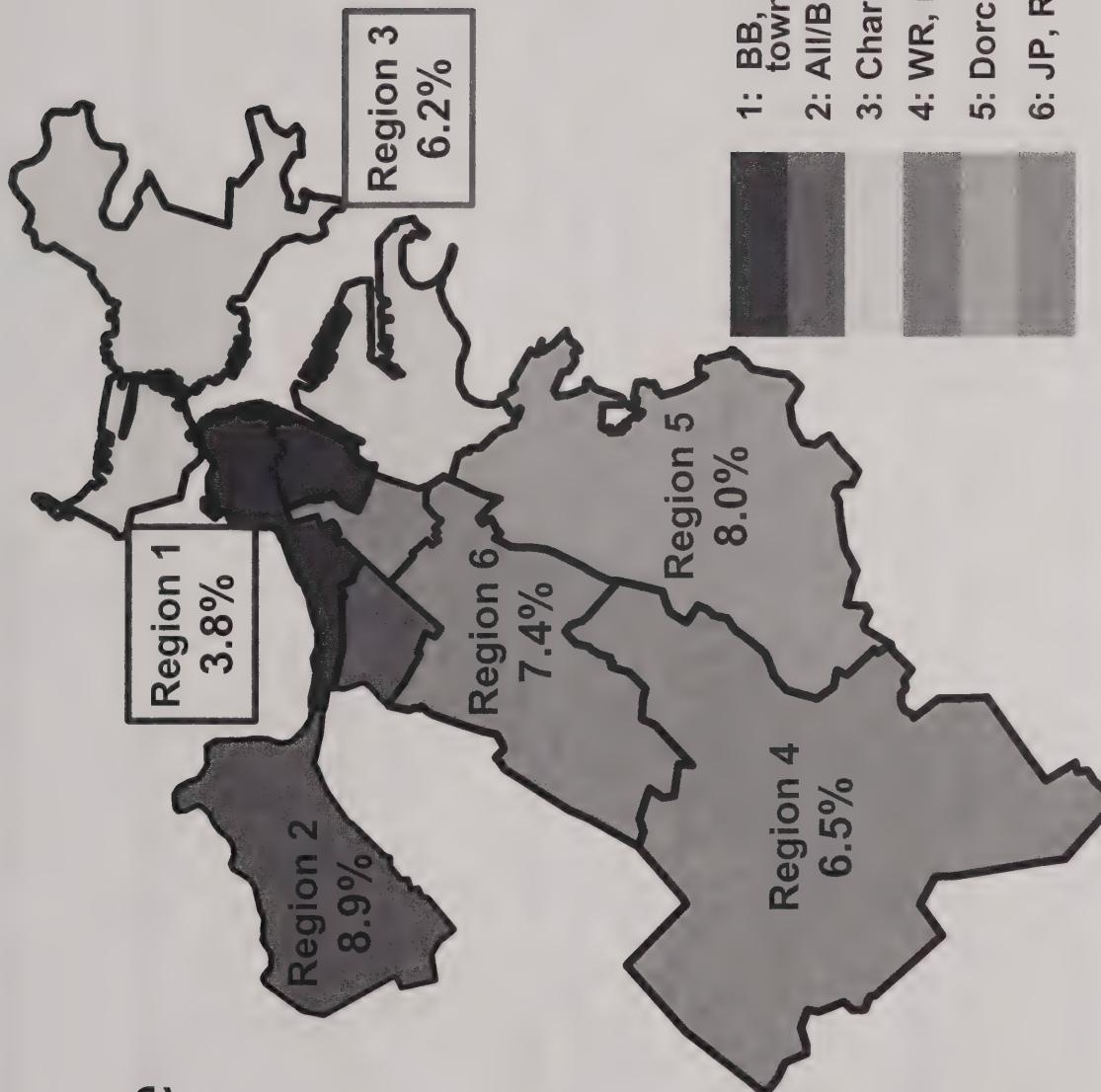
Percentage  
of Boston  
Adults Who  
Are Current  
Smokers



- 1: BB, BH, NE, Downtown, Chinatown
- 2: All/Bright, Fenway
- 3: Charlestown, EB, SB
- 4: WR, Roslindale, HP
- 5: Dorchester, Mattapan
- 6: JP, Roxbury, SE

DATA SOURCE: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 1998-1999, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and Boston Public Health Commission  
MAP PREPARATION: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

# Percentage of Boston Adults Who Are Uninsured



DATA SOURCE: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 1998-1999, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and Boston

Public Health Commission

MAP PREPARATION: Boston Public Health Commission, Research Office

# Summary

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## DORCHESTER: SUMMARY of MAJOR FINDINGS

Dorchester is a racially and ethnically diverse neighborhood where 22% of Boston residents live.

**Mortality:** Between 1991 and 2000, mortality rates among Dorchester residents declined from 1,054 deaths per 100,000 population to 927 deaths per 100,000, a decrease of 12%. The mortality rate for Dorchester residents in 2000 was the third lowest during the 10-year period.

**Heart Disease Mortality, Dorchester Communities:** In 2000, the heart disease age-adjusted mortality rate for Codman Square/Franklin Field (175 deaths per 100,000 population) was 20% lower than the rate for Boston overall (219 deaths per 100,000).

**Asthma Hospitalization Rates for Children Under Age 5:** Between 1994 and 2000, the asthma hospitalization rate for Dorchester children under age 5 declined 29%, from 17 hospitalizations per 1,000 population to 12 hospitalizations per 1,000.

**Infant Mortality Rates:** Between 1991 and 1999, the infant mortality rate for Dorchester declined 11%, from 9 infant deaths per 1,000 live births to 8 infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

## **Challenges**

**Cancer Mortality:** For 2000, the cancer mortality age-adjusted rate for Dorchester residents (236 deaths per 100,000 population) was 7% higher than the Boston rate (221 deaths per 100,000).

**Infant Mortality Rate (IMR):** During 1996-2000, the Dorchester IMR (9 infant deaths per 1,000 live births) was 27% higher than the Boston IMR (7 infant deaths per 1,000 live births).

**Incidence Rate of Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD):** In 2000, the STD incidence rate for Dorchester (1,282 new cases per 100,000 population) was 78% higher than the Boston rate (721 new case per 100,000).

**Violence-Related Injuries:** Twenty-two percent of Boston's population lives in Dorchester, but 41% of Boston victims of violence-related gunshot and sharp instrument injuries during 1998-2001 were Dorchester residents.

**Asthma Hospitalization Rates for Children Under Age 5:** During 1999-2000, the asthma hospitalization for children under age 5 in Dorchester (12 hospitalizations per 1,000 population) was 50% higher than the Boston rate (8 hospitalizations per 1,000).



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